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THE  
I L I A D  
• E  
H O M E R.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK.

By ALEXANDER POPE Esq;

*Te sequor, O Graiae gentis decus! inque tuis nunc  
Fixa pedum pono pressis vestigia signis:  
Non ita certandi cupidus, quam propter amorem,  
Quod te imitari aueo*

LUCRET.

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MDCCLXXIII.







T H E  
I L I A D.  
B O O K I.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The contention of Achilles and Agamemnon.

*In the war of Troy, the Greeks having sacked some of the neighbouring towns, and taken from thence two beautiful captures. Chryseïs and Briseïs, allotted the first to Agamemnon, and the last to Achilles. Chryses, the father of Chryseïs, and priest of Apollo, comes to the Grecian camp to ransom her; with which the action of the poem opens, in the tenth year of the siege. The priest being refused and insolently dismissed by Agamemnon, intreats for vengeance from his god, who inflicts a pestilence on the Greeks. Achilles calls a council, and encourages Chalcas to declare the cause of it, who attributes it to the refusal of Chryseïs. The king being obliged to send back his captive, enters into a furious contest with Achilles, which Nestor pacifies; however, as he had the absolute command of the army, he seizes on Briseïs in revenge. Achilles in discontent withdraws himself and his forces from the rest of the Greeks; and complaining to Thetis, she supplicates Jupiter to render them sensible of the wrong done to her son, by giving victory to the Trojans. Jupiter granting her suit, incenses Juno, between whom the debate runs high, till they are reconciled by the address of Vulcan.*

*The time of two and twenty days is taken up in this book; nine during the plague, one in the council and quarrel of the princes, and twelve for Jupiter's stay with the Æthiopians, at whose return Thetis prefers her petition. The scene lies in the Grecian camp, then changes to Chrysa, and lastly to Olympus.*

**A**CHILLES' wrath, to Greece the direful spring  
Of woes unnumber'd, heav'nly Goddesses sing!



That wrath which hurl'd to Pluto's gloomy reign  
 The souls of mighty chiefs untimely slain ;  
 Whose limbs unbury'd on the naked shore,  
 Devouring dogs and hungry vultures tore :  
 Since great Achilles and Atreides strove,  
 Such was the sov'reign doom, and such the will of Jove!

Declare, O muse ! in what ill-fated hour  
 Sprung the fierce strife, from what offended pow'r !  
 Latona's son, a dire contagion spread,  
 And heap'd the camp with mountains of the dead ;  
 The king of men his rev'rend priest defy'd,  
 And for the king's offence the people dy'd.

For Chryses fought with costly gifts to gain  
 His captive daughter from the victor's chain.  
 Suppliant the venerable father stands,  
 Apollo's awful ensigns grace his hands :  
 By these he begs : and lowly bending down,  
 Extends the sceptre and the laurel crown.  
 He su'd to all, but chief implor'd for grace  
 The brother-kings, of Atreus' royal race.

Ye kings and warriors ! may your vows be crown'd,  
 And Troy's proud walls lie level with the ground.  
 May Jove restore you, when your toils are o'er,  
 Safe to the pleasures of your native shore.  
 But oh ! relieve a wretched parent's pain,  
 And give Chryseis to these arms again ;  
 If mercy fail, yet let my presents move,  
 And dread avenging Phœbus, son of Jove.

The Greeks in shouts their joint assent declare,  
 The priest to rev'rence and release the fair.  
 Not so Atreides : He, with kingly pride,  
 Repuls'd the sacred fire, and thus reply'd :

Hence on thy life, and fly these hostile plains,  
 Nor ask, presumptuous, what the king detains :  
 Hence with thy laurel crown, and golden rod,  
 Nor trust too far those ensigns of thy God.  
 Mine is thy daughter, priest, and shall remain ;  
 And pray'rs, and tears, and bribes shall plead in vain ;  
 Till time shall rife ev'ry youthful grace,  
 And age dismiss her from my cold embrace,  
 In daily labours of the loom employ'd,  
 Or doom'd to deck the bed she once enjoy'd.

Hence



Hence then ; to Argos shall the maid retire,  
Far from her native soil, and weeping fire. 45

The trembling priest along the shore return'd,  
And in the anguish of a father mourn'd.  
Disconsolate, not daring to complain,  
Silent he wander'd by the sounding main : 50  
Till, safe at distance, to his God he prays,  
The god who darts around the world his rays :

O Smintheus ! sprung from fair Latona's line,  
Thou guardian pow'r of Cilla the divine,  
Thou source of light ! whom Tenedos adores, 55  
And whose bright presence gilds thy Chrysa's shores :  
If e'er with wreaths I hung thy sacred fane,  
Or fed the flames with fat of oxen slain ;  
God of the silver bow ! thy shafts employ,  
Avenge thy servant, and the Greeks destroy. 60

Thus Chryses pray'd : the fav'ring pow'r attends,  
And from Olympus' lofty tops descends.  
Bent was his bow, the Grecian hearts to wound ;  
Fierce as he mov'd, his silver shafts resound.  
Breathing revenge, a sudden night he spread, 65  
And gloomy darkness roll'd about his head.  
The fleet in view, he twang'd his deadly bow,  
And hissing fly the feather'd fates below.

On mules and dogs th' infection first began ;  
And last, the vengeful arrows fix'd in man. 70  
For nine long nights, thro' all the dusky air  
The Pyres thick-flaming shot a dismal glare.  
But e'er the tenth revolving day was run,  
Inspir'd by Juno, Thetis' godlike son  
Conven'd to council all the Grecian train ; 75  
For much the goddess mourn'd her heroes slain.

Th' assembly seated, rising o'er the rest,  
Achilles thus the king of men addrest :

Why leave we not the fatal Trojan shore,  
And measure back the seas we cross'd before ? 80  
The plague destroying whom the sword would spare,  
'Tis time to save the few remains of war.  
But let some prophet, or some sacred sage,  
Explore the cause of great Appollo's rage ;  
Or learn the wailful vengeance to remove, 85  
By mystic dreams, for dreams descend from Jove.



If broken vows this heavy curse have laid,  
 Let altars smoke, and hecatombs be paid.  
 So heav'n aton'd shall dying Greece restore,  
 And Phœbus dart his burning shafts no more.

90

He said, and sat: when Chalcas thus reply'd:  
 Chalcas the wise, the Grecian priest and guide,  
 That sacred seer, whose comprehensive view  
 The past, the present, and the future knew:  
 Uprising slow, the venerable sage

95

Thus spoke the prudence and the fears of age:  
 Belov'd of Jove, Achilles! wouldst thou know  
 Why angry Phœbus bends his fatal bow?

First give thy faith, and plight a prince's word  
 Of sure protection, by thy power and sword.

100

For I must speak what wisdom would conceal,  
 And truths, invidious to the great, reveal.  
 Bold is the task, when subjects grown too wise,  
 Instruct a monarch where his error lies;

For tho' we deem the short-liv'd fury past

105

'Tis sure, the mighty will revenge at last.

To whom Pelides. From thy inmost soul  
 Speak what thou knowest, and speak without controul.

Ev'n by that God I swear, who rules the day,

To whom thy hands the vows of Greece convey,

110

And whose blest'd oracles thy lips declare;

Long as Achilles breathes this vital air,

No daring Greek of all the num'rous band,

Against his priest shall lift an impious hand:

Not even the chief by whom our hosts are led,

115

The king of kings shall touch that sacred head.

Encourag'd thus, the blameless man replies:

Nor vows unpaid, nor slighted sacrifice,

But he, our chief, provok'd the raging pest,

Apollo's vengeance for his injur'd priest.

120

Nor will the God's awaken'd fury cease,

But plagues shall spread, and fun'ral fires increase,

Till the great king, without a ransom paid,

To her own Chrysa send the black-ey'd maid,

Perhaps, with adding sacrifice and pray'r,

125

The priest may pardon, and the God may spare.

The prophet spoke; when with a gloomy frown

The monarch started from his shining throne:

Black



Black choler fill'd his breast that boil'd with ire,  
And from his eye-balls flash'd the living fire. 130  
Augur accurs'd, denouncing mischief still,  
Prophet of plagues for ever boding ill!  
Still must that tongue some wounding message bring,  
And still thy priestly pride provoke thy king?  
For this are Phœbus' oracles explor'd; 135  
To teach the Greeks to murmur at their lord?  
For this with falsehoods is my honour stain'd,  
Is heav'n offended, and a priest profan'd;  
Because my prize, my beauteous maid I hold,  
And heav'nly charms prefer to proffer'd gold? 140  
A maid, unmatched in manners as in face,  
Skill'd in each art, and crown'd with ev'ry grace.  
Not half so dear were Clytæmnestra's charms,  
When first her blooming beauties blest'd my arms.  
Yet if the Gods demand her, let her fail; 145  
Our cares are only for the public weal:  
Let me be deem'd the hateful cause of all,  
And suffer, rather than my people fall.  
The prize, the beauteous prize, I will resign,  
So dearly valu'd, and so justly mine. 150  
But since for common good I yield the fair,  
My private loss let grateful Greece repair;  
Nor unrewarded let your prince complain,  
That he alone has fought and bled in vain.  
Insatiate king, (Achilles thus replies), 155  
Fond of the pow'r, but fonder of the prize!  
Wouldst thou the Greeks their lawful prey should yield,  
The due reward of many a well fought field?  
The spoils of cities raz'd, and warriors slain,  
We share with justice, as with toil we gain: 160  
But to resume whate'er thy av'rice craves,  
(That trick of tyrants), may be borne by slaves.  
Yet if our chief for plunder only fight,  
The spoils of Ilion shall thy loss requite,  
Whene'er, by Jove's decree, our conqu'ring pow'rs 165  
Shall humble to the dust her lofty tow'rs.  
Then thus the king: Shall I my prize resign  
With tame content, and thou possess'd of thine?  
Great as thou art, and like a God in fight,  
Think not to rob me of a soldier's right. 170



At thy demand shall I restore the maid ?  
 First let the just equivalent be paid ;  
 Such as a king might ask ; and let it be  
 A treasure worthy her, and worthy me.  
 Or grant me this, or with a monarch's claim, 175  
 This hand shall seize some other captive dame.  
 The mighty Ajax shall his prize resign,  
 Ulysses' spoils, or ev'n thy own be mine.  
 The man who suffers, loudly may complain ;  
 And rage he may, but he shall rage in vain. 180  
 But this when time requires——It now remains  
 We launch a bark to plough the wat'ry plains,  
 And waft the sacrifice to Chrysa's shores,  
 With chosen pilots, and with lab'ring oars.  
 Soon shall the fair the fable ship ascend, 185  
 And some deputed prince the charge attend ;  
 This Creta's king, or Ajax shall fulfil,  
 Or wise Ulysses see perform'd our will ;  
 Or if our royal pleasure shall ordain,  
 Achilles' self conduct her o'er the main ; 190  
 Let fierce Achilles, dreadful in his rage,  
 The God propitiate, and the pest assuage.  
 At this Pelides frowning stern, reply'd :  
 O tyrant, arm'd with insolence and pride !  
 Inglorious slave to int'rest, ever join'd 195  
 With fraud, unworthy of a royal mind !  
 What gen'rous Greek, obedient to thy word,  
 Shall form an ambush, or shall lift the sword ?  
 What cause have I to war at thy decree ?  
 The distant Trojans never injur'd me : 200  
 To Phthia's realms no hostile troops they led,  
 Safe in her vales my warlike couriers fed ;  
 Far hence remov'd, the hoarse-resounding main,  
 And walls of rocks, secure my native reign,  
 Whose fruitful soil luxuriant harvests grace, 205  
 Rich in her fruits, and in her martial race.  
 Hither we sail'd, a voluntary throng,  
 T' avenge a private, not a public wrong :  
 What else to Troy th' assembled nations draws,  
 But thine, ungrateful, and thy brother's cause ? 210  
 Is this the pay our blood and toils deserve ;  
 Disgrac'd and injur'd by the man we serve ?

And



And dar'st thou threat to snatch my prize away,  
 Due to the deeds of many a dreadful day ;  
 A prize as small, O tyrant ! match'd with thine, 215  
 As thy own actions if compar'd to mine.

Thine in each conquest is the wealthy prey,  
 Tho' mine the sweat and danger of the day.  
 Some trivial present to my ships I bear,  
 Or barren praises pay the wounds of war. 220

But know, proud monarch, I'm thy slave no more ;  
 My fleet shall waft me to Theffalia's shore.

Left by Achilles on the Trojan plain,  
 What spoils, what conquests shall Atrides gain !

To this the king : Fly, mighty warrior ! fly, 525  
 Thy aid we need not, and thy threats defy.

There want not chiefs in such a cause to fight,  
 And Jove himself shall guard a monarch's right.

Of all the kings (the Gods distinguish'd care)  
 To pow'r superior none such hatred bear : 230

Strife and debate thy restless soul employ,  
 And wars and horrors are thy savage joy.

If thou hast strength, 'twas heaven that strength bestow'd,  
 For know, vain man ! thy valour is from God.

Haste, launch thy vessels, fly with speed away, 235  
 Rule thy own realms with arbitrary sway :

I heed thee not, but prize at equal rate  
 Thy short-liv'd friendship, and thy groundless hate.

Go, threat thy earth-born Myrmidons ; but here  
 'Tis mine to threaten, prince, and thine to fear. 240

Know, if the god the beauteous dame demand,  
 My bark shall waft her to her native land ;

But then prepare, imperious prince ! prepare,  
 Fierce as thou art, to yield thy captive fair :

Ev'n in thy tent I'll seize the blooming prize, 245  
 Thy lov'd Briseïs with the radiant eyes.

Hence shalt thou prove my might, and curse the hour  
 Thou stood'st a rival of imperial pow'r ;

And hence to all our host it shall be known,  
 That kings are subject to the Gods alone. 250

Achilles heard, with grief and rage oppress'd,  
 His heart swell'd high, and labour'd in his breast.

Distracting thoughts by turns his bosom rul'd,  
 Now fir'd by wrath, and now by reason cool'd ;

That



That prompts his hand to draw the deadly sword, 255  
 Force thro' the Greeks, and pierce their haughty lord;  
 This whispers soft, his vengeance to controul,  
 And calm the rising tempest of his soul.

Just as in anguish of suspense he stay'd,  
 While half unsheath'd appear'd the glitt'ring blade, 260

Minerva swift descended from above,  
 Sent by the sister and the wife of Jove;

(For both the princes claim'd her equal care)

Behind she stood, and by the golden hair

Achilles seiz'd; to him alone confest; 265

A sable cloud conceal'd her from the rest.

He sees, and sudden to the Goddess cries,

Known by the flames that sparkle from her eyes:

Descends Minerva, in her guardian care,

A heav'nly witness of the wrongs I bear 270

From Atreus' son? Then let those eyes that view

The daring crime behold the vengeance too.

Forbear! (the progeny of Jove replies)

To calm thy fury I forsake the skies:

Let great Achilles, to the Gods resign'd, 275

To reason yield the empire o'er his mind.

By awful Juno this command is giv'n;

The king and you are both the care of heav'n.

The force of keen reproaches let him feel,

But sheath, obedient, thy revenging steel. 280

For I pronounce (and trust a heav'nly pow'r)

Thy injured honour has its fated hour,

When the proud monarch shall thy arms implore,

And bribe thy friendship with a boundless store.

Then let revenge no longer bear the sway, 285

Command thy passions, and the Gods obey.

To her Pelides: With regardful ear,

'Tis just, O Goddess! I thy dictates hear.

Hard as it is, my vengeance I suppress:

Those who revere the Gods, the Gods will bless. 290

He said, observant of the blue-ey'd maid;

Then in the sheath return'd the shining blade.

The Goddess swift to high Olympus flies,

And joins the sacred senate of the skies.

Nor yet the rage his boiling breast forsook, 295

Which thus redoubling on Atrides broke:



O monster ! mix'd of insolence and fear,  
Thou dog in forehead, but in heart a deer !  
When wert thou known in ambush'd fights to dare,  
Or nobly face the horrid front of war ? 300  
'Tis ours, the chance of fighting fields to try,  
Thine to look on, and bid the valiant die.  
So much 'tis safer through the camp to go,  
And rob a subject, than despoil a foe.  
Scourge of thy people, violent and base ! 305  
Sent in Jove's anger on a slavish race,  
Who, lost to sense of gen'rous freedom past,  
Are tam'd to wrongs, or this had been thy last.  
Now by this sacred sceptre, hear me swear,  
Which never more shall leaves of blossoms bear, 310  
Which sever'd from the trunk (as I from thee)  
On the bare mountains left its parent tree ;  
This sceptre, form'd by temper'd steel to prove  
An ensign of the delegates of Jove,  
From whom the pow'r of laws and justice springs : 315  
(Tremendous oath ! inviolate to kings) :  
By this I swear when bleeding Greece again  
Shall call Achilles, she shall call in vain.  
When flush'd with slaughter, Hector comes to spread  
The purpled shore with mountains of the dead, 320  
Then shalt thou mourn th' affront thy madness gave,  
Forc'd to deplore, when impotent to save :  
Then rage in bitterness of soul, to know,  
This act has made the bravest Greek the foe.  
He spoke, and furious hurl'd against the ground 325  
His sceptre starr'd with golden studs around.  
Then sternly silent sat. With like disdain,  
The raging king return'd his frowns again.  
To calm their passion with the words of age,  
Slow from his seat arose the Pylian sage, 330  
Experienc'd Nestor, in persuasion skill'd,  
Words, sweet as honey, from his lips distill'd :  
Two generations now had pass'd away,  
Wise by his rules, and happy by his sway ;  
Two ages o'er his native realm he reign'd, 335  
And now th' example of the third remain'd.  
All view'd with awe the venerable man ;  
Who thus, with mild benevolence, began :



What shame, what woe is this to Greece ! what joy  
 To Troy's proud monarch, and the friends of Troy !  
 That adverse Gods commit to stern debate 341  
 The best, the bravest of the Grecian state.  
 Young as ye are, this youthful heat restrain,  
 Nor think your Nestor's years and wisdom vain.  
 A godlike race of heroes once I knew, 345  
 Such, as no more these aged eyes shall view !  
 Lives there a chief to match Pirithous' fame,  
 Dryas the bold, or Ceneus' deathless name ;  
 Theseus, endu'd with more than mortal might,  
 Or Polyphemus, like the Gods in fight ? 350  
 With these of old to toils of battle bred,  
 In early youth my hardy days I led ;  
 Fir'd with the thirst which virtuous envy breeds,  
 And smit with love of honourable deeds.  
 Strongest of men, they pierc'd the mountain boar, 355 }  
 Rang'd the wild deserts red with monsters gore, }  
 And from their hills the shaggy Centaurs tore, }  
 Yet these with soft, persuasive arts I sway'd ;  
 When Nestor spoke, they listen'd and obey'd.  
 If in my youth, ev'n these esteem'd me wise, 360  
 Do you, young warriors, here my age advise.  
 Atrides, seize not on the beauteous slave ;  
 That prize the Greeks by common suffrage gave :  
 Nor thou, Achilles, treat our prince with pride :  
 Let kings be just, and sov'reign pow'r preside. 365  
 Thee, the first honours of the war adorn,  
 Like Gods in strength, and of a Goddess born ;  
 Him, awful Majesty exalts above  
 The pow'rs of earth, and sceptred sons of Jove.  
 Let both unite with well-consenting mind, 370  
 So shall authority with strength be join'd.  
 Leave me, O king ! to calm Achilles' rage ;  
 Rule thou thyself, as more advanc'd in age.  
 Forbid it, Gods ! Achilles should be lost,  
 The pride of Greece, and bulwark of our host. 375  
 This said, he ceas'd : The king of men replies :  
 Thy years are awful, and thy works are wise.  
 But that imperious, that unconquer'd soul,  
 No laws can limit, no respect controul.

Before



Before his pride must his superiors fall, 380  
His word the law, and he the lord of all?  
Him must our hosts, our chiefs, ourself obey?  
What king can bear a rival in his sway?  
Grant that the Gods his matchless force have giv'n;  
Has foul reproach a privilege from heav'n? 385

Here on the Monarch's speech Achilles broke,  
And furious, thus, and interrupting spoke:  
Tyrant, I well deserv'd thy galling chain,  
To live thy slave, and still to serve in vain,  
Should I submit to each unjust decree: 390  
Command thy vassals, but command not me.  
Seize on Briseis, whom the Grecians doom'd  
My prize of war, yet tamely see resum'd;  
And seize secure; no more Achilles draws  
His conqu'ring sword in any woman's cause. 395  
The Gods command me to forgive the past;  
But let this first invasion be the last:  
For know, thy blood, when next thou dar'st invade,  
Shall stream in vengeance on my reeking blade.

At this they ceas'd; the stern debate expir'd; 400  
The chiefs in fullen majesty retir'd.

Achilles with Patroclus took his way,  
Where near his tents his hollow vessels lay.  
Meantime Atrides launch'd with num'rous oars  
A well rigg'd ship for Chrysa's sacred shores: 405  
High on the deck was fair Chryseis plac'd,  
And sage Ulysses with the conduct grac'd:  
Safe in her sides the hecatomb they stow'd,  
Then swiftly sailing, cut the liquid road.

The host to expiate, next the king prepares, 410  
With pure lustrations, and with solemn pray'rs.  
Wash'd by the briny wave, the pious train  
Are cleans'd; and cast th' ablutions in the main.  
Along the shore whole hecatombs were laid,  
And bulls and goats to Phœbus' altars paid. 415  
The fable fumes in curling spires arise,  
And waft their grateful odours to the skies:

The army thus in sacred rites engag'd,  
Atrides still with deep resentment rag'd.  
To wait his will two sacred heralds stood, 420  
Talthybius and Eurybates the good.



Haste to the fierce Achilles' tent (he cries),  
 Thence bear Briseïs as our royal prize :  
 Submit he must ; or if they will not part,  
 Ourselves in arms shall tear her from his heart. 425

Th' unwilling heralds act their lord's commands ;  
 Pensive they walk along the barren sands :  
 Arriv'd, the hero in his tent they find,  
 With gloomy aspect, on his arm reclin'd.  
 At awful distance long they silent stand, 430  
 Loath to advance, or speak their hard command ;  
 Decent confusion ! This the godlike man  
 Perceiv'd, and thus with accent mild began :

With leave and honour enter our abodes,  
 Ye sacred ministers of men and Gods ! 435  
 I know your message ; by constraint you came ;  
 Not you, but your imperious lord I blame.  
 Patroclus, haste, the fair Briseïs bring ;  
 Conduct my captive to the haughty king.  
 But witness, heralds, and proclaim my vow, 440  
 Witness to Gods above, and men below !  
 But first, and loudest, to your prince declare,  
 That lawless tyrant whose commands you bear ;  
 Unmov'd as death Achilles shall remain,  
 Tho' prostrate Greece should bleed at ev'ry vein : 445  
 The raging chief in frantic passion lost,  
 Blind to himself, and useless to his host,  
 Unskill'd to judge the future by the past,  
 In blood and slaughter shall repent at last.

Patroclus now th' unwilling beauty brought ; 450  
 She, in soft sorrows, and in pensive thought,  
 Pass'd silent, as the heralds held her hand,  
 And oft look'd back, slow-moving o'er the strand.

Not so his loss the fierce Achilles bore ;  
 But sad retiring to the sounding shore, 455  
 O'er the wild margin of the deep he hung,  
 That kindred deep, from whence his mother sprung :  
 There, bath'd in tears of anger and disdain,  
 Thus loud lamented to the stormy main.

O parent Goddess ! since in early bloom 460  
 Thy son must fall, by too severe a doom ;  
 Sure, to so short a race of glory born,  
 Great Jove in justice should this span adorn :

Honour



Honour and fame at least the Thund'rer ow'd,  
And ill he pays the promise of a God ; 465  
If yon proud monarch thus thy son defies,  
Obscures my glories, and resumes my prize.

Far from the deep recesses of the main,  
Where aged Ocean holds his watery reign,  
The Goddess mother heard. The waves divide ; 470  
And like a mist she rose above the tide ;  
Beheld him mourning on the naked shores,  
And thus the sorrows of his soul explores.  
Why grieves my son ? Thy anguish let me share,  
Reveal the cause, and trust a parent's care. 475

He deeply sighing, said : To tell my wo,  
Is but to mention what too well you know.  
From Thebe, sacred to Apollo's name,  
(Aetion's realm), our conqu'ring army came,  
With treasure loaded and triumphant spoils, 480  
Whose just division crown'd the soldier's toils ;  
But bright Chryseis, heav'nly prize ! was led,  
By vote selected, to the gen'ral's bed.

The priest of Phœbus sought by gifts to gain  
His beauteous daughter from the victor's chain ; 485  
The fleet he reach'd, and lowly bending down,  
Held forth the sceptre and the laurel crown,  
Entreating all : but chief implor'd for grace  
The brother kings of Atreus' royal race :  
The gen'rous Greeks their joint consent declare, 490  
The priest to rev'rence, and release the fair.

Not so Atrides : he, with wonted pride,  
The fire insulted, and his gifts deny'd :  
Th' insulted fire (his God's peculiar care)  
To Phœbus pray'd, and Phœbus heard the pray'r : 495  
A dreadful plague ensues ; th' avenging darts  
Incessant fly, and pierce the Grecian hearts.

A prophet then, inspir'd by heav'n, arose,  
And points the crime, and thence derives the woes :  
Myself the first, th' assembled chiefs incline, 500  
T' avert the vengeance of the pow'r divine ;  
Then rising in his wrath, the monarch storm'd ;  
Incens'd he threaten'd, and his threats perform'd :  
The fair Chryseis to her fire was sent,  
With offer'd gifts to make the God relent ; 505



But now he seiz'd Briseis heav'nly charms,  
 And of my valour's prize defrauds my arms,  
 Defrauds the votes of all the Grecian train;  
 And service, faith, and justice plead in vain.  
 But Goddess! thou thy suppliant son attend, 510  
 To high Olympus' shining court ascend,  
 Urge all the ties to former service ow'd,  
 And sue for vengeance to the thund'ring God.  
 Oft hast thou triumph'd in the glorious boast,  
 That thou stood'st forth, of all th' æthereal host, 515  
 When bold rebellion shook the realms above,  
 Th' undaunted guard of cloud-compelling Jove.  
 When the bright partner of his awful reign,  
 The warlike maid, and monarch of the main,  
 The traitor-gods, by mad ambition driv'n, 520  
 Durst threat with chains th' omnipotence of heav'n.  
 Then, call'd by thee, the monster Titan came,  
 (Whom Gods Briareus, men Ægeon name),  
 Thro' wond'ring skies enormous stalk'd along;  
 Not he that shakes the solid earth so strong: 525  
 With giant-pride at Jove's high throne he stands,  
 And brandish'd round him all his hundred hands;  
 Th' affrighted gods confess'd their awful lord,  
 They dropt the fetters, trembled and ador'd.  
 This Goddess, this to his remembrance call, 530  
 Embrace his knees, at his tribunal fall;  
 Conjure him far to drive the Grecian train,  
 To hurl them headlong to their fleet and main,  
 To heap the shores with copious death, and bring  
 The Greeks to know the curse of such a king: 535  
 Let Agamemnon lift his haughty head  
 O'er all his wide dominion of the dead,  
 And mourn in blood, that e'er he durst disgrace  
 The boldest warrior of the Grecian race.

Unhappy son! (fair Thetis thus replies, 540  
 While tears celestial trickle from her eyes),  
 Why have I born thee with a mother's throes,  
 To fates averse, and nurs'd for future woes?  
 So short a space the light of heav'n to view!  
 So short a space! and fill'd with sorrow too! 545  
 O might a parent's careful wish prevail,  
 Far, far from Ilion should thy vessels fail,

And



And thou, from camps remote, the danger shun,  
Which now, alas ! too nearly threatens my son.  
Yet (what I can) to move thy suit I'll go 550  
To great Olympus crown'd with fleecy snow.  
Meantime, secure within thy ships, from far  
Behold the field, nor mingle in the war.  
The fire of Gods, and all th' ætherial train,  
On the warm limits of the farthest main, 555  
Now mix with mortals, nor disdain to grace  
The feast of Æthiopia's blameless race;  
Twelve days the pow'rs indulge the genial rite,  
Returning with the twelfth revolving light.  
Then will I mount the brazen dome, and move 560  
The high tribunal of immortal Jove.

The Goddess spoke : the rolling waves uncloze ;  
Then down the deep she plung'd from whence she rose,  
And left him sorrowing on the lonely coast,  
In wild resentment for the fair he lost. 565

In Chrysa's port now sage Ulysses rode ;  
Beneath the deck the destin'd victims stow'd ;  
The sails they furl'd, they lash'd the mast aside,  
And dropt their anchors, and the pinnace ty'd.  
Next on the shore their hecatomb they land, 570  
Chryseis last descending on the strand.  
Her, thus returning from the furrow'd main,  
Ulysses led to Phœbus' sacred fane ;  
Where at his solemn altar, as the maid  
He gave to Chryses, thus the hero said : 575

Hail rev'rend priest ! to Phœbus' awful dome  
A suppliant I from great Atrides come ;  
Unransom'd here receive the spotless fair ;  
Accept the hecatomb the Greeks prepare ;  
And may thy God who scatters darts around, 580  
Aton'd by sacrifice, desist to wound.

At this, the fire embrac'd the maid again,  
So sadly lost, so lately fought in vain.  
Then near the altar of the darting king,  
Dispos'd in rank their hecatomb they bring : 585  
With water purify their hands, and take  
The sacred off'ring of the salted cake ;  
While thus with arms devoutly rais'd in air,  
And solemn voice, the priest directs his pray'r.



God of the silver bow, thy ear incline, 490  
 Whose pow'r encircles Cilla the divine;  
 Whose sacred eye thy Tenedos surveys,  
 And gilds fair Chrysa with distinguish'd rays;  
 If, fir'd to vengeance at thy priest's request,  
 Thy direful darts inflict the raging pest; 595  
 Once more attend! avert the wasteful wo,  
 And smile propitious, and unbend thy bow.

So Chryses pray'd, Apollo heard his pray'r:  
 And now the Greeks their hecatomb prepare;  
 Between their horns the salted barley threw, 600  
 And with their heads to heav'n the victims flew:  
 The limbs they sever from th' inclosing hide;  
 The thighs, selected to the Gods, divide:  
 On these, in double cawls involv'd with art,  
 The choicest morsels lay from ev'ry part. 605  
 The priest himself before his altar stands,  
 And burns the off'ring with his holy hands,  
 Pours the black wine, and sees the flames aspire;  
 The youth with instruments surround the fire:  
 The thighs thus sacrific'd, and entrails drest, 610  
 Th' assistants part, transfix, and roast the rest:  
 Then spread the tables, the repast prepare,  
 Each takes his seat, and each receives his share.  
 When now the rage of hunger was repress'd,  
 With pure libations they conclude the feast; 615  
 The youths with wine the copious goblets crown'd,  
 And pleas'd, dispense the flowing bowls around.  
 With hymns divine the joyous banquet ends,  
 The Pæans lengthen'd till the sun descends:  
 The Greeks, restor'd, the grateful notes prolong; 620  
 Apollo listens, and approves the song.

'Twas night; the chiefs beside their vessel lie,  
 Till rosy morn had purpled o'er the sky:  
 Then launch, and hoise the mast; indulgent gales,  
 Supply'd by Phœbus, fill the swelling sails; 625  
 The milk-white canvas bellying as they blow,  
 The parted ocean foams and roars below;  
 Above the bounding billows swift they flew,  
 Till now the Grecian camp appear'd in view.  
 Far on the beach they haul their bark to land, 630  
 (The crooked keel divides the yellow sand),

Then



Then part, where stretch'd along the winding bay,  
The ships and tents in mingled prospect lay.

But raging still, amidst his navy sat  
The stern Achilles, stedfast in his hate ; 635  
Nor mix'd in combat, nor in council join'd ;  
But wasting cares lay heavy on his mind :  
In his black thoughts revenge and slaughter roll,  
And scenes of blood rise dreadful in his soul.

Twelve days were past, and now the dawning light  
The Gods had summon'd to the Olympian height : 641  
Jove first ascending from the wat'ry bow'rs,  
Leads the long order of æthereal pow'rs.  
When like the morning-mist in early day,  
Rose from the flood the daughter of the sea ; 645  
And to the seats divine her flight address'd.

There, far apart, and high above the rest,  
The Thund'rer sat ; where old Olympus shrouds  
His hundred heads in heav'n, and props the clouds.  
Suppliant the goddess stood : one hand she plac'd 650  
Beneath his beard, and one his knees embrac'd :  
If e'er, O father of the Gods ! she said,  
My words could please thee, or my actions aid ;  
Some marks of honour on my son bestow,  
And pay in glory what in life you owe, 655  
Fame is at least by heav'nly promise due,  
To life so short, and now dishonour'd too.  
Avenge this wrong, oh ever just and wise !  
Let Greece be humbled, and the Trojans rise ;  
Till the proud king, and all th' Achaian race 660  
Shall heap with honours him they now disgrace.

Thus Thetis spoke, but Jove in silence held  
The sacred counsels of his breast conceal'd.  
Not so repuls'd, the Goddess closer prest,  
Still grasp'd his knees, and urg'd the dear request. 665  
O fire of Gods and men ! thy suppliant hear ;  
Refuse, or grant ; for what has Jove to fear ?  
Or oh ! declare, of all the pow'rs above,  
Is wretched Thetis least the care of Jove !

She said, and sighing thus the God replies, 670  
Who rolls the thunder o'er the vaulted skies :

What hast thou ask'd ! Ah why should Jove engage  
In foreign contests, and domestic rage,

The



The Gods complaints, and Juno's fierce alarms,  
 While I, too partial, aid the Trojan arms ? 675  
 Go, lest the haughty partner of my sway  
 With jealous eyes thy close access survey ;  
 But part in peace, secure thy pray'r is sped :  
 Witness the sacred honours of our head,  
 The nod that ratifies the will divine, 680  
 The faithful, fix'd, irrevocable sign ;  
 This seals thy suit, and this fulfils thy vows——  
 He spoke, and awful bends his sable brows ;  
 Shakes his ambrosial curls, and gives the nod ;  
 The stamp of fate, and sanction of the God : 685  
 High heav'n with trembling the dread signal took,  
 And all Olympus to the center shook.

Swift to the seas profound the Goddess flies,  
 Jove to his starry mansion in the skies.  
 The shining synod of th' immortals wait 690  
 The coming God, and from their thrones of state  
 Arising silent, wrapt in holy fear,  
 Before the Majesty of Heav'n appear.  
 Trembling they stand, while Jove assumes the throne,  
 All, but the God's imperious queen alone : 695  
 Late had she view'd the silver-footed dame,  
 And all her passions kindled into flame.  
 Say, artful manager of heav'n (she cries),  
 Who now partakes the secrets of the skies ?  
 Thy Juno knows not the decrees of fate, 700  
 In vain the partner of imperial state.  
 What fav'rite Goddess then those cares divides,  
 Which Jove in prudence from his consort hides ?

To this the Thund'rer : Seek not thou to find  
 The sacred counsels of Almighty mind : 705  
 Involv'd in darkness lies the great decree,  
 Nor can the depths of fate be pierc'd by thee.  
 What fits thy knowledge thou the first shall know ;  
 The first of Gods above, and men below ;  
 But thou, nor they, shall search the thoughts that roll  
 Deep in the close recesses of my soul. 711

Full on the fire the Goddess of the skies  
 Roll'd the large orbs of her majestic eyes,  
 And thus return'd. Austere Saturnius, say,  
 From whence this wrath, or who controuls thy sway ?  
 Thy



Thy boundless will, for me, remains in force, 716  
And all thy counsels take the destin'd course.  
But 'tis for Greece I fear : for late was seen,  
In close consult the silver-footed queen.

Jove to his Thetis nothing could deny, 720  
Nor was the signal vain that shook the sky.  
What fatal favour has the Goddess won,  
To grace her fierce, inexorable son ?  
Perhaps in Grecian blood to drench the plain.  
And glut his vengeance with my people slain. 725

Then thus the God : Oh restless fate of pride,  
That strives to learn what heav'n resolves to hide ;  
Vain is the search, presumptuous and abhorr'd,  
Anxious to thee, and odious to thy lord.  
Let this suffice ; th' immutable decree 730  
No force can shake : what *is* that *ought* to be.  
Goddess, submit, nor dare our will withstand,  
But dread the power of this avenging hand ;  
Th' united strength of all the Gods above  
In vain resist th' omnipotence of Jove. 735

The Thund'rer spoke, nor durst the queen reply ;  
A rev'rend horror silenc'd all the sky.  
The feast disturb'd, with sorrow Vulcan saw  
His mother menac'd, and the gods in awe ;  
Peace at his heart, and pleasure his design, 740  
Thus interpos'd the architect divine.  
The wretched quarrels of the mortal state  
Are far unworthy, Gods ! of your debate :  
Let men their days in senseless strife employ,  
We, in eternal peace, and constant joy. 745  
Thou Goddess-mother, with our fire comply,  
Nor break the sacred union of the sky :  
Lest, rous'd to rage, he shake the bless'd abodes,  
Launch the red lightning, and dethrone the Gods.  
If you submit, the Thund'rer stands pleas'd ; 750  
The gracious power is willing to be pleas'd.

Thus Vulcan spoke ; and rising with a bound,  
The double bowl with sparkling nectar crown'd,  
Which held to Juno in a cheerful way,  
Goddess, (he cry'd), be patient and obey. 755  
Dear as you are, if Jove his arm extend,  
I can but grieve, unable to defend.

What



What God so daring in your aid to move,  
Or lift his hand against the force of Jove?  
Once in your cause I felt his matchless might, 760  
Hurl'd headlong downward from th' æthereal height:  
Toss'd all the day in rapid circles round;  
Nor till the sun descended, touch'd the ground:  
Breathless I fell, in giddy motion lost;  
The Sinthians rais'd me on the Lemnian coast. 765  
He said, and to her hands the goblet heav'd,  
Which, with a smile, the white-arm'd queen receiv'd,  
Then to the rest he fill'd; and, in his turn,  
Each to his lips apply'd the nectar'd urn.  
Vulcan with awkward grace his office plies, 770  
And unextinguish'd laughter shakes the skies.  
Thus the bless'd Gods the genial day prolong,  
In feasts ambrosial, and celestial song.  
Apollo tun'd the lyre; the muses round  
With voice alternate aid the silver sound. 775  
Meantime the radiant sun, to mortal sight  
Descending swift, roll'd down the rapid light.  
Then to their starry domes the Gods depart,  
The shining monuments of Vulcan's art:  
Jove on his couch reclin'd his awful head, 780  
And Juno slumber'd on the golden bed.

THE



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K II.

### T H E A R G U M E N T.

The trial of the army, and catalogue of the forces.

*Jupiter, in pursuance of the request of Thetis, sends a deceitful vision to Agamemnon, persuading him to lead the army to battle; in order to make the Greeks sensible of their want of Achilles. The general, who is deluded with the hopes of taking Troy without his assistance, but fears the army was discouraged by his absence and the late plague, as well as by the length of time, contrives to make trial of their disposition by a stratagem. He first communicates his design to the princes in council, that he would propose a return to the soldiers, and that they should put a stop to them if the proposal was embraced. Then he assembles the whole host, and upon moving for a return to Greece, they unanimously agree to it, and run to prepare the ships. They are detained by the management of Ulysses, who chastises the insolence of Thersites. The assembly is recalled, several speeches made on the occasion, and at length the advice of Nestor followed, which was to make a general muster of the troops, and to divide them into their several nations before they proceeded to battle. This gives occasion to the poet to enumerate all the forces of the Greeks and Trojans, in a large catalogue. The time employed in this book consists not entirely of one day. The scene lies in the Grecian camp and upon the sea shore; toward the end it removes to Troy.*

NOW pleasing sleep had seal'd each mortal eye,  
Stretch'd in the tents the Grecian leaders lie;  
Th'immortals slumber'd on their thrones above,  
All, but the ever-wakeful eyes of Jove.  
To honour Thetis' son he bends his care,  
And plunge the Greeks in all the woes of war:

5

Then



Then bids an empty phantom rise to fight,  
And thus commands the vision of the night.

Fly hence, deluding dream ! and light as air,  
To Agamemnon's ample tent repair.

10

Bid him in arms draw forth th' embattled train,  
Lead all his Grecians to the dusty plain.

Declare, ev'n now 'tis giv'n him to destroy  
The lofty tow'rs of wide extended Troy.

For now no more the Gods with fate contend,  
At Juno's suit the heav'nly factions end.

15

Destruction hangs o'er yon devoted wall,  
And nodding Ilion waits th' impending fall.

Swift as the word the vain Illusion fled,  
Descends, and hovers o'er Atreides' head ;

20

Cloth'd in the figure of the Pylian sage,  
Renown'd for wisdom, and rever'd for age ;

Around his temples spreads his golden wing,

And thus the flatt'ring dream deceives the king.

Canst thou, with all a monarch's cares oppress'd,  
Oh Atreus' son ! canst thou indulge thy rest ?

25

Ill fits a chief who mighty nations guides,

Directs in council, and in war presides,

To whom its safety a whole people owes,

To waste long nights in indolent repose.

30

Monarch, awake ! 'tis Jove's command I bear,

Thou, and thy glory, claim his heav'nly care.

In just array draw forth th' embattled train,

Lead all thy Grecians to the dusty plain ;

Ev'n now, O King ! 'tis given thee to destroy

35

The lofty tow'rs of wide extended Troy.

For now no more the Gods with fate contend,

At Juno's suit the heav'nly factions end.

Destruction hangs o'er yon devoted wall,

And nodding Ilion waits th' impending fall.

40

Awake, but waking this advice approve,

And trust the vision that descends from Jove.

The Phantom said ; then vanish'd from his sight,

Resolves to air, and mixes with the night.

A thousand schemes the monarch's mind employ ;

45

Elate in thought, he sacks untaken Troy ;

Vain as he was, and to the future blind ;

Nor saw what Jove and secret fate design'd,

What



What mighty toils to either host remain,  
 What scenes of grief, and numbers of the slain !  
 Eager he rises, and in fancy hears  
 The voice celestial murm'ring in his ears.  
 First on his limbs a slender vest he drew,  
 Around him next the regal mantle threw,  
 Th' embroider'd sandals on his feet were ty'd ;  
 The starry faulchion glitter'd at his side ;  
 And last his arm the massy sceptre loads,  
 Unsustain'd, immortal, and the gift of Gods.

50

55

Now rosy morn ascends the court of Jove,  
 Lifts up her light, and opens day above.  
 The king dispatch'd his heralds with commands  
 To range the camp, and summon all the bands :  
 The gath'ring hosts the monarch's word obey ;  
 While to the fleet Atrides bends his way.  
 In his black ship the Pylian prince he found ;  
 There calls a senate of the peers around :  
 Th' assembly plac'd, the king of men express  
 The counsels lab'ring in his artful breast.

60

65

Friends and confederates ! with attentive ear  
 Receive my words, and credit what you hear.  
 Late as I slumber'd in the shades of night,  
 A dream divine appear'd before my sight ;  
 Whose visionary form like Nestor came,  
 The same in habit, and in mien the same.  
 The heav'nly phantom hover'd o'er my head,  
 And, Dost thou sleep, oh Atreus' son ? (he said.)  
 Ill fits a chief who mighty nations guides,  
 Directs in council, and in war presides,  
 To whom its safety a whole people owes,  
 To waste long nights in indolent repose.  
 Monarch, awake ! 'tis Jove's command I bear ;  
 Thou and thy glory claim his heav'nly care.  
 In just array draw forth th' embattled train,  
 And lead the Grecians to the dusty plain ;  
 Ev'n now, O king ! 'tis given thee to destroy  
 The lofty tow'rs of wide extended Troy.  
 For now no more the Gods with fate contend,  
 At Juno's suit the heav'nly factions end.  
 Destruction hangs o'er yon devoted wall,  
 And nodding Ilion waits th' impending fall.

70

75

80

85

90  
This



This hear observant, and the Gods obey !  
 The vision spoke, and pass'd in air away.  
 Now, valiant chiefs ! since heav'n itself alarms,  
 Unite, and rouse the sons of Greece to arms.  
 But first, with caution, try what yet they dare, 95  
 Worn with nine years of unsuccessful war ?

To move the troops, to measure back the main,  
 Be mine ; and yours the province to detain.

He spoke, and sat ; when Nestor rising said,  
 (Nestor, whom Pylos' sandy realms obey'd :) 100

Princes of Greece, your faithful ears incline,

Nor doubt the vision of the pow'rs divine ;

Sent by great Jove to him who rules the host,

Forbid it heav'n ! this warning should be lost !

Then let us haste, obey the Gods alarms, 105

And join to rouse the sons of Greece to arms.

Thus spoke the sage : the kings without delay

Dissolve the council, and their chief obey :

The sceptred rulers lead ; the following host

Pour'd forth by thousands, darkens all the coast. 110

As from some rocky cleft the shepherd sees

Clust'ring in heaps on heaps the driving bees,

Rolling, and black'ning, swarms succeeding swarms,

With deeper murmurs and more hoarse alarms ;

Dusky they spread, a close embody'd croud, 115

And o'er the vale descends the living cloud.

So, from the tents and ships, a length'ning train

Spreads all the beach, and wide o'er shades the plain :

Along the region runs a deaf'ning sound ;

Beneath their footsteps groans the trembling ground. 120

Fame flies before, the messenger of Jove,

And shining soars, and claps her wings above.

Nine sacred heralds now, proclaiming loud

The monarch's will, suspend the list'ning croud.

Soon as the throngs in order rang'd appear, 125

And fainter murmurs dy'd upon the ear,

The king of kings his awful figure rais'd ;

High in his hand the golden sceptre blaz'd :

The golden sceptre, of celestial frame,

By Vulcan form'd, from Jove to Hermes came : 130

To Pelops he th' immortal gift resign'd ;

Th' immortal gift great Pelops left behind,



In Atreus' hand, which not with Atreus ends,  
 To rich Thyestes next the prize descends ;  
 And now the mark of Agamemnon's reign, 135  
 Subjects all Argos, and controls the main.

On this bright sceptre now the king reclin'd,  
 And artful thus pronounc'd the speech design'd :  
 Ye sons of Mars ! Partake your leader's care,  
 Heroes of Greece, and brother's of the war ! 140  
 Of partial Jove with justice I complain,  
 And heav'nly oracles believ'd in vain.

A safe return was promis'd to our toils,  
 Renown'd, triumphant, and enrich'd with spoils.  
 Now shameful flight alone can save the host, 145  
 Our blood, our treasure, and our glory lost.  
 So Jove decrees, resistless lord of all !

At whose command whole empires rise or fall :  
 He shakes the feeble props of human trust,  
 And towns and armies humbles to the dust. 150

What shame to Greece a fruitless war to wage,  
 Oh lasting shame in ev'ry future age !

Once great in arms, the common scorn we grow,  
 Repuls'd and baffled by a feeble foe.

So small their number, and if wars were ceas'd 155  
 And Greece triumphant held a gen'ral feast,  
 All rank'd by tens ; whole decads when they dine  
 Must want a Trojan slave to pour the wine.

But other forces have our hopes o'erthrown,  
 And Troy prevails by armies not her own. 160

Now nine long years of mighty Jove are run,  
 Since first the labours of this war begun :

Our cordage torn, decay'd our vessels lie,  
 And scarce ensure the wretched pow'r to fly.  
 Haste then, for ever leave the Trojan wall ! 165

Our weeping wives, our tender children call :  
 Love, duty, safety, summon us away,

'Tis nature's voice, and nature we obey.

Our shatter'd barks may yet transport us o'er,  
 Safe and inglorious, to our native shore. 170

Fly, Grecians, fly, your sails and oars employ,  
 And dream no more of heav'n-defended Troy.

His deep design unknown the hosts approve  
 Atrides' speech. The mighty numbers move.



So roll the billows on th' Icarian shore, 175  
 From east and south when winds begin to roar,  
 Burst their dark mansions in the clouds, and sweep  
 The whit'ning surface of the ruffled deep.

And as on corn when western gusts descend,  
 Before the blasts the lofty harvests bend : 180

Thus o'er the field the moving host appears,  
 With nodding plumes and groves of waving spears.  
 The gath'ring murmur spreads, their trampling feet  
 Beat the loose sands, and thicken to the fleet.

With long resounding cries they urge the train 185  
 To fit the ships, and launch into the main.

They toil, they sweat, thick clouds of dust arise,  
 The doubling clamours echo to the skies.

Ev'n then the Greeks had left the hostile plain,  
 And fate decreed the fall of Troy in vain ; 190

But Jove's imperial queen their flight survey'd,  
 And sighing thus bespoke the blue-ey'd maid.

Shall then the Grecians fly ? Oh dire disgrace !  
 And leave unpunish'd this perfidious race ?

Shall Troy, shall Priam, and th' adult'rous spouse, 195  
 In peace enjoy the fruits of broken vows !

And bravest chiefs, in Helen's quarrel slain,  
 Lie unreveng'd on yon detested plain ?

No : let my Greeks, unmov'd by vain alarms,  
 Once more refulgent shine in brazen arms. 200

Haste, Goddess, haste ! the flying host detain,  
 Nor let one sail be hoisted on the main.

Pallas obeys, and from Olympus height  
 Swift to the ships precipitates her flight ;

Ulysses, first in public cares, she found, 205  
 For prudent counsel like the Gods renown'd :

Oppress'd with gen'rous grief the hero stood,  
 Nor drew his fable vessels to the flood.

And is it thus, divine Laërtes son !

Thus fly the Greeks (the martial maid begun,) 210  
 Thus to their country bear their own disgrace,

And fame eternal leave to Priam's race ?

Shall beauteous Helen still remain unfreed,

Still unreveng'd, a thousand heroes bleed ?

Haste gen'rous Ithacus ! prevent the shame. 215

Recal your armies, and your chiefs reclaim.

Your



Your own resistless eloquence employ,  
And to th' Immortals trust the fall of Troy.

The voice divine confess'd the warlike maid,  
Ulysses heard, nor uninspir'd obey'd; 220  
Then meeting first Atrides, from his hand  
Receiv'd th' imperial sceptre of command.  
Thus grac'd, attention and respect to gain,  
He runs, he flies thro' all the Grecian train,  
Each prince of name, or chief in arms approv'd, 225  
He fir'd with praise, or with persuasion mov'd.

Warriors like you, with strength and wisdom blest,  
By brave examples should confirm the rest.  
The monarch's will not yet reveal'd appears;  
He tries our courage, but resents our fears. 230  
Th' unwary Greeks his fury may provoke;  
Not thus the king in secret council spoke.  
Jove loves our chief, from Jove his honour springs,  
Beware! for dreadful is the wrath of kings.

But if a clam'rous vile plebeian rose, 235  
Him with reproof he check'd, or tam'd with blows.  
Be still, thou slave, and to thy betters yield;  
Unknown alike in council and in field.  
Ye Gods, what dastards would our host command?  
Swept to the war, the lumber of a land. 240  
Be silent, wretch, and think not here allow'd  
That worst of tyrants, an usurping croud.  
To one sole monarch Jove commits the sway;  
His are the laws, and him let all obey.

With words like these the troops Ulysses rul'd, 245  
The loudest silenc'd, and the fiercest cool'd.  
Back to th' assembly roll the thronging train,  
Desert the ships, and pour upon the plain.  
Murm'ring they move, as when old Ocean roars,  
And heaves huge surges to the trembling shores: 250  
The groaning banks are burst with bellowing sound,  
The rocks remurmur, and the deeps rebound.  
At length the tumult sinks, the noises cease,  
And a still silence lulls the camp to peace.

Thersites only clamour'd in the throng, 255  
Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of tongue:  
Aw'd by no shame, by no respect control'd,  
In scandal busy, in reproaches bold:



With witty malice studious to defame ;  
 Scorn all his joy, and laughter all his aim. 260  
 But chief he glory'd with licentious style  
 To lash the great, and monarchs to revile.  
 His figure such as might his soul proclaim ;  
 One eye was blinking, and one leg was lame :  
 His mountain-shoulders half his breast o'erspread, 265  
 Thin hairs bestrew'd his long mis-shapen head.  
 Spleen to mankind his envious heart possess'd,  
 And much he hated all, but most the best.  
 Ulysses or Achilles still his theme ;  
 But royal scandal his delight supreme. 270  
 Long had he liv'd the scorn of ev'ry Greek,  
 Vex'd when he spoke, yet still they heard him speak.  
 Sharp was his voice ; which in the shrillest tone,  
 Thus with injurious taunts attack'd the throne.  
 Amidst the glories of so bright a reign, 275  
 What moves the great Atrides to complain ?  
 'Tis thine whate'er the warrior's breast inflames,  
 The golden spoil, and thine the lovely dames.  
 With all the wealth our wars and blood bestow,  
 Thy tents are crouded, and thy chests o'erflow. 280  
 Thus at full ease in heaps of riches roll'd,  
 What grieves the monarch ? Is it thirst of gold ?  
 Say, shall we march with our unconquer'd pow'rs,  
 (The Greeks and I), to Ilion's hostile tow'rs,  
 And bring the race of royal bastards here, 285  
 For Troy to ransom at a price too dear ?  
 But safer plunder thy own host supplies ;  
 Say, wouldst thou seize some valiant leader's prize ?  
 Or, if thy heart to gen'rous love be led,  
 Some captive fair to bless thy kingly bed ? 290  
 Whate'er our master craves, submit we must,  
 Plagu'd with his pride, or punish'd for his lust.  
 Oh women of Achaia ! men no more !  
 Hence let us fly, and let him waste his store }  
 In loves and pleasures on the Phrygian shore. } 295  
 We may be wanted on some busy day,  
 When Hector comes : So great Achilles may :  
 From him he forc'd the prize we jointly gave,  
 From him, the fierce, the fearless, and the brave :  
 And



And durst he, as he ought, resent that wrong,  
This mighty tyrant were no tyrant long. 300

Fierce from his seat, at this, Ulysses springs,  
In gen'rous vengeance of the king of kings.  
With indignation sparkling in his eyes,  
He views the wretch, and sternly thus replies: 305

Peace, factious monster, born to vex the state,  
With wrangling talents form'd for foul debate :  
Curb that impetuous tongue, nor rashly vain  
And singly mad, asperse the sov'reign reign.  
Have we not known thee, slave ! of all our host, 310  
The man who acts the least, upbraids the most ?  
Think not the Greeks to shameful flight to bring,  
Nor let those lips profane the name of king.

For our return we trust the heav'nly pow'rs ;  
Be that their care ; to fight like men be ours. 315  
But grant the host with wealth the gen'ral load,  
Except detraction, what hast thou bestow'd ?

Suppose some hero should his spoils resign,  
Art thou that hero ? could those spoils be thine ?  
Gods ! let me perish on this hateful shore, 320  
And let these eyes behold my son no more ;  
If, on thy next offence, this hand forbear  
To strip those arms thou ill-deserv'st to wear,  
Expel the council where our princes meet,  
And send thee scourg'd, and howling thro' the fleet.

He said, and cowering as the dastard bends, 325  
The weighty sceptre on his back descends :  
On the round bunch the bloody tumours rise ;  
The tears spring starting from his haggard eyes :  
Trembling he sat, and shrunk in abject fears, 330  
From his vile visage wip'd the scalding tears.

While to his neighbour each express'd his thought :  
Ye Gods ! what wonders has Ulysses wrought ?  
What fruits his conduct and his courage yield ?  
Great in the council glorious in the field. 335

Gen'rous he rises in the crown's defence,  
To curb the factious tongue of insolence.  
Such just examples on offenders shown,  
Sedition silence, and assert the throne.

'Twas thus the general voice the hero prais'd, 340  
Who rising, high th' imperial sceptre rais'd :

The



The blue-ey'd Pallas, his celestial friend,  
 (In form a herald), bade the crouds attend.  
 Th' expecting crouds in still attention hung,  
 To hear the wisdom of his heav'nly tongue. 345

Then deeply thoughtful, pausing ere he spoke,  
 His silence thus the prudent hero broke.

Unhappy monarch! whom the Grecian race  
 With shame deserting, heap with vile disgrace.  
 Not such at Argos was their gen'rous vow, 350

Once all their voice, but ah! forgotten now:

Ne'er to return, was then the common cry,

Till Troy's proud structures should in ashes lie.

Behold them weeping for their native shore!

What could their wives or helpless children more!

What heart but melts to leave the tender train, 355

And, one shorth month, endure the wintry main?

Few leagues remov'd, we wish our peaceful seat,

When the ship tosses, and the tempests beat:

Then well may this long stay provoke their tears, 360

The tedious length of nine revolving years.

Not for their grief the Grecian host I blame;

But vanquish'd! baffled! Oh eternal shame!

Expect the time to Troy's destruction giv'n,

And try the faith of Chalcas and of heav'n. 365

What pass'd at Aulis, Greece can witness bear,

And all who live to breathe this Phrygian air.

Beside a fountain's sacred brink we rais'd

Our verdant altars, and the victims blazed;

(Twas where the plane-tree spread its shades around);

The altars heav'd; and from the crumbling ground 371

A mighty dragon shot, of dire portent;

From Jove himself the dreadful sign was sent.

Strait to the tree his sanguine spires he roll'd,

And curl'd around in many a winding fold. 375

The topmost branch a mother-bird possess;

Eight callow infants fill'd the mossy nest;

Herself the ninth; the serpent as he hung,

Stretch'd his black jaws, and crash'd the crying young;

While hov'ring near, with miserable moan, 380

The drooping mother wail'd her children gone.

The mother last, as round the nest she flew,

Seiz'd by the beating wing, the monster flew:

Nor



Nor long surviv'd ; to marble turn'd he stands  
A lasting prodigy on Aulis' sands.

385

Such was the will of Jove ; and hence we dare  
Trust in his omen, and support the war.

For while around we gaze with wond'ring eyes,  
And trembling fought the pow'rs with sacrifice,  
Full of his God, the rev'rend Chalcas cry'd,  
Ye Grecian warriors ! lay your fears aside.

390

This wondrous signal Jove himself displays,  
Of long, long labours, but eternal praise.

As many birds as by the snake were slain,  
So many years the toils of Greece remain ;

495

But wait the tenth, for Ilion's fall decreed :

Thus spoke the prophet, thus the fates succeed.

Obey, ye Grecians ! with submission wait,

Nor let your flight avert the Trojan fate.

He said : the shores with loud applauses sound,  
The hollow ships each deaf'ning shout rebound.

400

Then Nestor thus—These vain debates forbear,

Ye talk like children, not like heroes dare.

Where now are all your high resolves at last ?

Your leagues concluded, your engagements past ?

405

Vow'd with libations and with victims then,

Now vanish'd like their smoke : the faith of men !

While useless words consume th' unactive hours,

No wonder Troy so long resists our pow'rs.

Rise, great Atrides ! and with courage sway ;

410

We march to war, if thou direct the way.

But leave the few that dare resist thy laws,

The mean deserters of the Grecian cause,

To grudge the conquests mighty Jove prepares,

And view, with envy, our successful wars.

415

On that great day when first the martial train,

Big with the fate of Ilion, plough'd the main,

Jove, on the right, a prosp'rous signal sent,

And Thunder-rolling shook the firmament.

Encourag'd hence, maintain the glorious strife,

420

Till ev'ry soldier grasp a Phrygian wife,

Till Helen's woes all full-reveng'd appear,

And Troy's proud matrons render tear for tear.

Before that day, if any Greek invite

His country's troops to base, inglorious flight ;

425

Stand



Stand forth that Greek ! and hoist his sail to fly,  
And die the dastard first, who dreads to die.  
But now, O monarch ! all thy chiefs advise :  
Nor what they offer, thou thyself despise.  
Among those counsels, let not mine be vain ; 430  
In tribes and nations to divide thy train :  
His sep'rate troops let ev'ry leader call,  
Each strengthen each, and all encourage all.  
What chief, or soldier, of the num'rous band,  
Or bravely fights, or ill obeys command, 435  
When thus distinct they war, shall soon be known,  
And what the cause of Ilion not o'erthrown ;  
If fate resists, or if our arms are slow,  
If Gods above prevent, or men below.

To him the king : how much thy years excel 440  
In arts of counsel, and in speaking well :  
O would the Gods, in love to Greece, decree  
But ten such sages as they grant in thee ;  
Such wisdom soon should Priam's force destroy,  
And soon should fall the haughty tow'rs of Troy ! 445  
But Jove forbids, who plunges those he hates  
In fierce contention and in vain debates.  
Now great Achilles from our aid withdraws,  
By me provok'd ; a captive maid the cause :  
If e'er as friends we join, the Trojan wall 450  
Must shake, and heavy will the vengeance fall !  
But now, ye warriors, take a short repast ;  
And, well-refresh'd, to bloody conflict haste.  
His sharpen'd spear let ev'ry Grecian wield,  
And ev'ry Grecian fix his brazen shield, 455  
Let all excite the fiery steeds of war,  
And all for combat fit the rattling car,  
This day, this dreadful day, let each contend ;  
No rest, no respite, till the shades descend ;  
Till darkness, or till death shall cover all : 460  
Let the war bleed, and let the mighty fall :  
Till bath'd in sweat be ev'ry manly breast,  
With the huge shield each brawny arm deprest,  
Each aching nerve refuse the lance to throw,  
And each spent courser at the chariot blow. 465  
Who dares, inglorious, in his ships to stay,  
Who dares to tremble on this signal day ;

That



That wretch, too mean to fall by martial pow'r,  
The birds shall mangle, and the dogs devour.

The monarch spoke; and strait a murmur rose, 470  
Loud as the surges when the tempest blows,  
That dash'd on broken rocks tumultuous roar,  
And foam and thunder on the stony shore.

Strait to the tents the troops dispersing bend,  
The fires are kindled, and the smokes ascend; 475  
With hasty feasts they sacrifice, and pray  
T' avert the dangers of the doubtful day.

A steer of five years age, large limb'd, and fed,  
To Jove's high altars Agamemnon led:

There bade the noblest of the Grecian peers; 480  
And Nestor first, as most advanc'd in years.

Next came Idomeneus, and Tydeus' son,

Ajax the less, and Ajax Telamon;

Then wise Ulysses in his rank was place'd;

And Menelaus came unbid, the last. 485

The chiefs surround the destin'd beast, and take  
The sacred off'ring of the salted cake:

When thus the king prefers his solemn pray'r:

Oh thou! whose thunder rends the clouded air,  
Who in the heav'n of heav'ns hast fix'd thy throne, 490  
Supreme of Gods! unbounded, and alone!

Hear! and before the burning sun descends,

Before the night her gloomy veil extends,

Low in the dust be laid yon hostile spires,

Be Priam's palace sunk in Grecian fires, 495

In Hector's breast be plung'd this shining sword,

And slaughter'd heroes groan around their lord!

Thus pray'd the chief: his unavailing pray'r

Great Jove refus'd, and toss'd in empty air:

The God averse, while yet the fumes arose, 500

Prepar'd new toils, and doubled woes on woes,

Their pray'rs perform'd, the chief the rites pursue,

The barley sprinkled, and the victim flew.

The limbs they sever from th' inclosing hide,

The thighs, selected to the Gods, divide. 505

On these, in double cauls involv'd with art,

The choicest morsels lie from ev'ry part.

From the cleft wood the crackling flames aspire,

While the fat victims feed the sacred fire.

The



The thighs thus sacrific'd, and entrails drest, 510  
 Th' assistants part, transfix, and roast the rest;  
 Then spread the tables, the repast prepare,  
 Each takes his seat, and each receives his share.

Soon as the rage of hunger was suppress'd,  
 The gen'rous Nestor thus the prince addrest: 515

Now bid thy heralds sound the loud alarms,  
 And call the squadrons sheath'd in brazen arms:  
 Now seize th' occasion, now the troops survey,  
 And lead to war when heav'n directs the way.

He said: the monarch issu'd his commands; 520  
 Strait the loud heralds call the gath'ring bands.  
 The chiefs inclose their king; the hosts divide,  
 In tribes and nations rank'd on either side.

High in the midst the blue-ey'd virgin flies;  
 From rank to rank she darts her ardent eyes: 525

The dreadful ægis, Jove's immortal shield,  
 Blaz'd on her arm, and lighten'd all the field:  
 Round the vast orb an hundred serpents roll'd,  
 Form'd the bright fringe, and seem'd to burn in gold.

With this each Grecian's manly heart she warms, 530  
 Swells their bold hearts, and strings their nervous arms;  
 No more they sigh, inglorious to return,  
 But breathe revenge, and for the combat burn.

As on some mountain, through the lofty grove,  
 The crackling flames ascend, and blaze above; 535

The fires expanding as the winds arise,  
 Shoot their long beams, and kindle half the skies:  
 So from the polish'd arms, and brazen shields,  
 A gleamy splendour flash'd along the fields.

Not less their number than th' embody'd cranes, 540  
 Or milk-white swans in Aëtos' wat'ry plains,

That o'er the windings of Cayster's springs,  
 Stretch their long necks, and clap their rustling wings,

Now tow'r aloft, and course in airy rounds;  
 Now light with noise; with noise the field resounds. 545

Thus num'rous and confus'd, extending wide,  
 The legions croud Scamander's flow'ry side;

With rushing troops the plains are cover'd o'er,  
 And thund'ring footsteps shake the sounding shore.

Along the river's level meads they stand, 550  
 Thick as in spring the flow'rs adorn the land,



Or leaves the trees ; or thick as insects play,  
 The wand'ring nation of a summer's day,  
 That drawn by milky steams, at ev'ning-hours,  
 In gather'd swarms surround the rural bow'rs ; 555  
 From pail to pail with busy murmur run  
 The gilded legions, glitt'ring in the sun.  
 So throng'd, so close the Grecian squadron stood  
 In radiant arms, and thirst for Trojan blood.  
 Each leader now his scatter'd force conjoins, 560  
 In close array, and forms the deep'ning lines :  
 Not with more ease, the skilful shepherd swain  
 Collects his flocks from thousands on the plain.  
 The king of kings, majestically tall,  
 Tow'rs o'er his armies, and outshines them all : 565  
 Like some proud bull that round the pastures leads  
 His subject-herds, the monarch of the meads.  
 Great as the Gods, th' exalted chief was seen,  
 His strength like Neptune, and like Mars his mein.  
 Jove o'er his eyes celestial glories spread, 570  
 And dawning conquest play'd around his head.

Say, virgins, seated round the throne divine,  
 All-knowing Goddesses ! immortal Nine !  
 Since earth's wide regions, heav'ns unmeasur'd height,  
 And hell's abyss, hide nothing from your sight, 575  
 (We, wretched mortals ! lost in doubts below,  
 But guess by rumour, and but boast we know) ;  
 Oh say what heroes, fir'd by thirst of fame,  
 Or urg'd by wrongs, to Troy's destruction came ?  
 To count them all, demands a thousand tongues, 580  
 A throat of brass, and adamantine lungs.  
 Daughters of Jove, assist ! inspir'd by you,  
 The mighty labour dauntless I pursue :  
 What crouded armies, from what climes they bring,  
 Their names, their numbers, and their chiefs I sing.

*The CATALOGUE of the SHIPS.*

The hardy warriors whom Bœotia bred, 586  
 Penelios, Leitus, Prothoënor led :  
 With these Arcefilaus and Clonius stand,  
 Equal in arms, and equal in command.  
 These head the troops that rocky Aulis yields, 590  
 And Eteon's hills, and Hyrie's wat'ry fields,

D

And



And Schœnos, Scholos, Græa near the main,  
 And Mycaleſſia's ample piny plain.  
 Thoſe who in Peteon or Ileſion dwell,  
 Or Harma, where Apollo's prophet fell ; 595  
 Helcon and Hylè, which the ſprings o'erflow ;  
 And Medeon lofty, and Ocalea low ;  
 Or in the meads of Haliartus ſtray,  
 Or Theſpia, ſacred to the God of day.  
 Oncheſtus, Neptune's celebrated groves ; 600  
 Copæ, and Thiſbè, fam'd for ſilver doves,  
 For flocks Erythræ, Gliffa for the vine ;  
 Platea green, and Niſa the divine.  
 And they whom Thebè's well-built walls incloſe,  
 Where Mydè, Eutrefis, Coronè roſe ; 605  
 And Arnè rich with purple harveſts crown'd ;  
 And Anthedon, Bœotia's utmoſt bound.  
 Full fifty ſhips they ſend, and each conveys  
 Twice ſixty warriors thro' the foaming ſeas.  
 To theſe ſucceed Aſpledon's martial train, 610  
 Who plough the ſpacious Orchomenian plain.  
 Two valiant brothers rule th' undaunted throng,  
 Iälmen and Aſcalaphus the ſtrong :  
 Sons of Aſtyochè, the heav'nly fair,  
 Whoſe virgin charms ſubdu'd the God of war : 615  
 (In Actor's court as ſhe retir'd to reſt,  
 The ſtrength of Mars the bluſhing maid comprèſt),  
 Their troops in thirty ſable veſſels ſweep,  
 With equal oars, the hoarſe-reſounding deep.  
 The Phocians next in forty barks repair, 620  
 Epiſtrophus and Schedius head the war.  
 From thoſe rich regions where Cephiffus leads  
 His ſilver current thro' the flow'ry meads ;  
 From Panopœa, Chryſa the divine,  
 Where Anemoria's ſtately turrets ſhine, 625  
 Where Pytho, Daulis, Cypariſſus ſtood,  
 And fair Lilæa views the riſing flood.  
 Theſe rang'd in order on the floating tide,  
 Cloſe, on the left, the bold Bœotians ſide.  
 Fierce Ajax led the Locrian ſquadrons on, 630  
 Ajax the leſs, Oileus' valiant ſon ;  
 Skill'd to direct the flying dart aright ;  
 Swift in purſuit, and active in the fight.

Him,



Him, as their chief, the chosen troops attend,  
 Which Bessa, Thronus, and rich Cynos send: 635  
 Opus, Calliarus, and Scarphe's bands;  
 And those who dwell where pleasing Augia stands,  
 And where Boägrius floats the lowly lands,  
 Or in fair Tarphe's sylvan seats reside;  
 In forty vessels cut the yielding tide. 640

Eubœa next her martial sons prepares,  
 And sends the brave Abantes to the wars:  
 Breathing revenge, in arms they take their way  
 From Chalcis' walls, and strong Eretria;  
 Th' Isteian fields for gen'rous vines renown'd, 645  
 The Fair Caristos, and the Styrian ground;  
 Where Dios from her tow'rs o'erlooks the plain,  
 And high Cerinthus views the neighb'ring main.  
 Down their broad shoulders falls a length of hair;  
 Their hands dismiss not the long lance in air; 650  
 But with portended spears in fighting fields,  
 Pierce the tough cors'lets and the brazen shields.  
 Twice twenty ships transport the warlike bands,  
 Which bold Elphenor, fierce in arms, commands.

Full fifty more from Athens stem the main, 655  
 Led by Menestheus thro' the liquid plain,  
 (Athens the fair, where great Erectheus sway'd,  
 That ow'd his nurture to the blue-ey'd maid,  
 But from the teeming furrow took his birth,  
 The mighty offspring of the foodful earth. 660  
 Him Pallas plac'd amidst her wealthy fane,  
 Ador'd with sacrifice and oxen slain;  
 Where, as the years revolve, her altars blaze,  
 And all the tribes resound the Goddess' praise).  
 No chief like thee, Menestheus! Greece could yield,  
 To martial armies in the dusty field, 666  
 The extended wings of battle to display,  
 Or close th' embody'd host in firm array.  
 Nestor alone, improv'd by length of days,  
 For martial conduct, bore an equal praise. 670  
 With these appear the Salaminian bands,  
 Whom the gigantic Telamon commands;  
 In twelve black ships to Troy they steer their course,  
 And with the great Athenians join their force.



Next move to war the gen'rous Argive train, 675 }  
 From high Trœzenè and Mazeta's plain,  
 And fair Ægina circled by the main :  
 Whom strong Tyrinthè's lofty walls surround,  
 And Epidaur with viny harvests crown'd :  
 And where fair Aſinen and Hermion show 680  
 Their cliffs above, and ample bay below.  
 These by the brave Euryalus were led,  
 Great Sthenelus, and greater Diomed,  
 But chief Tydides bore the sov'reign sway ;  
 In fourscore barks they plough the wat'ry way. 685  
 The proud Mycenè arms her martial pow'rs,  
 Cleonè, Corinth, with imperial tow'rs,  
 Fair Aræthyrea, Ornia's fruitful plain,  
 And Ægion, and Adrastus ancient reign ;  
 And those who dwell along the sandy shore, 690  
 And where Pellenè yields her fleecy store,  
 Where Helicè and Hyperesia lie,  
 And Gonoëssa's spires salute the sky.  
 Great Agamemnon rules the num'rous band,  
 A hundred vessels in long order stand, 695 }  
 And crouded nations wait his dread command.  
 High on the deck the king of men appears,  
 And his resulgent arms in triumph wears ;  
 Proud of his host, unrival'd in his reign,  
 In silent pomp, he moves along the main. 700  
 His brother follows, and to vengeance warms  
 The hardy Spartans, exercis'd in arms :  
 Phares and Bryſia's valiant troops, and those  
 Whom Lacedæmon's lofty hills inclose :  
 Or Meſſe's tow'rs for silver doves renown'd, 705  
 Amyclæ, Laäs, Augia's happy ground,  
 And those whom Oetylos' low walls contain,  
 And Helos, on the margin of the main :  
 These, o'er the bending ocean, Helen's cause  
 In sixty ships with Menelaus draws : 710  
 Eager and loud, from man to man he flies,  
 Revenge and fury flaming in his eyes ;  
 While vainly fond, in fancy oft he hears  
 The fair-one's grief, and ſees her falling tears.  
 In ninety ſail, from Pylos' sandy coast, 715  
 Nestor the ſage conducts his choſen hoſt :  
 From



From Amphigenia's ever-fruitful land ;  
 Where Æpy high, and little Pteleon stand ;  
 Where beauteous Arenè her structures shows,  
 And Thryon's walls Alpheus' streams inclose : 720  
 And Dorion, fam'd for Thamyris' disgrace,  
 Superior once of all the tuneful race,  
 Till vain of mortals empty praise, he strove  
 To match the seed of cloud-compelling Jove !  
 Too daring bard ! whose unsuccessful pride 725  
 Th' immortal Muses in their art defy'd.  
 Th' avenging Muses of the light of day  
 Depriv'd his eyes, and snatch'd his voice away ;  
 No more his heav'nly voice was heard to sing,  
 His hand no more awak'd the silver string. 730

Where under high Cyllenè, crown'd with wood,  
 The shaded tomb of old Æpytus stood ;  
 From Ripè, Stratie, Tegea's bord'ring towns,  
 The Phenean fields, and Orchomenian downs,  
 Where the fat herds in plenteous pasture rove ; 735  
 And Stymphelus with her surrounding grove,  
 Parrhasia, on her snowy cliffs reclin'd,  
 And high Enispè shook by wintry wind,  
 And fair Mantinea's ever-pleasing site ;  
 In sixty sail th' Arcadian bands unite. 740  
 Bold Agapenor, glorious at their head,  
 (Ancæus' son), the mighty squadron led.  
 Their ships, supply'd by Agamemnon's care,  
 Thro' roaring seas the wond'ring warriors bear ;  
 The first to battle on th' appointed plain, 745  
 But new to all the dangers of the main.

Those, where fair Elis and Buprasium join ;  
 Whom Hyrmin, here, and Myrsinus confine,  
 And bounded there, where o'er the valleys rose  
 Th' Olenian rock ; and where Alisium flows ; 750  
 Beneath four chiefs (a num'rous army) came ;  
 The strength and glory of the Epean name.  
 In sep'rate squadrons these their train divide,  
 Each leads ten vessels thro' the yielding tide.  
 One was Amphimachus, and Thalpius one ; 755  
 (Eurytus' this, and that Teätus' son) ;  
 Diores sprung from Amarynceus' line ;  
 And great Polyxenus, of force divine.



But those who view fair Elis o'er the seas,  
From the bless'd islands of th' Echinades, 760  
In forty vessels, under Meges move,  
Begot by Phyleus the belov'd of Jove.

To strong Dulichium from his fire he fled,  
And thence to Troy his hardy warriors led.  
Ulysses follow'd thro' the wat'ry road, 765  
A chief, in wisdom equal to a God.

With those whom Cephalenia's isle inclos'd,  
Or till their fields along the coast oppos'd;  
Or where fair Ithaca o'erlooks the floods,  
Where high Neritos shakes his waving woods, 770  
Where Ægilipa's rugged sides are seen,  
Crocyliia rocky, and Zacynthus green.

These in twelve galleys with vermilion prores,  
Beneath his conduct fought the Phrygian shores.

Thoas came next, Andraemon's valiant son, 775  
From Pleuron's walls, and chalky Calydon,  
And rough Pylenè, and th' Olenian steep,  
And Chalcis beaten by the rolling deep.

He led the warriors from th' Ætolian shore,  
For now the sons of Oeneus were no more! 780  
The glories of the mighty race were fled!  
Oeneus himself, and Meleager dead!

To Thoas' care now trust the martial train,  
His forty vessels follow through the main.

Next eighty barks the Cretan king commands, 785  
Of Gnoſſus, Lyſtus, and Gortyna's bands,  
And those who dwell where Rhytion's domes arise,  
Or white Lycastus glitters to the skies,

Or where by Phæstus silver Jordan runs;  
Crete's hundred cities pour forth all her sons. 790  
These march'd, Idomeneus, beneath thy care,  
And Merion, dreadful as the God of war.

Tlepolemus, the son of Hercules,  
Led nine swift vessels thro' the foamy seas;  
From Rhodes, with everlasting sunshine bright, 795  
Jalyſſus, Lindus, and Camirus white.

His captive mother fierce Alcides bore,  
From Ephyr's walls, and Selle's winding shore,  
Where mighty towns in ruins spread the plain,  
And saw their blooming warriors early slain. 800  
The



The hero, when to manly years he grew,  
 Alcides' uncle, old Licymnius, flew;  
 For this, constrain'd to quit his native place,  
 And shun the vengeance of th' Herculean race,  
 A fleet he built, and with a num'rous train, 805  
 Of willing exiles, wander'd o'er the main;  
 Where many seas, and many suff'rings past,  
 On happy Rhodes the chief arriv'd at last:  
 There, in three tribes, divides his native band,  
 And rules them peaceful in a foreign land; 810  
 Increas'd and prosper'd in their new abodes,  
 By mighty Jove, the fire of men and Gods;  
 With joy they saw the growing empire rise,  
 And show'rs of wealth descending from the skies.

Three ships with Nireus fought the Trojan shore,  
 Nireus, whom Aglae to Charopus bore, 816  
 Nireus, in faultless shape and blooming grace,  
 The loveliest youth of all the Grecian race;  
 Pelides only match'd his early charms;  
 But few his troops, and small his strength in arms. 820

Next thirty galleys cleave the liquid plain,  
 Of those Calydnæ's sea-girt isles contain:  
 With them the youth of Nisyru repair,  
 Casus the strong, and Crapathus the fair;  
 Cos, where Euripylus possess'd the sway, 826  
 Till great Alcides made the realms obey:  
 These Antiphus and bold Phidippus bring,  
 Sprung from the God by Theſſalus the king.

Now, Muse, recount Pelasgic Argos' pow'rs,  
 From Alos, Alopè, and Trechin's tow'rs; 830  
 From Phthia's spacious vales; and Hella, blest  
 With female beauty far beyond the rest.

Full fifty ships beneath Achilles' care,  
 Th' Achaians, Myrmidons, Hellenians bear;  
 Theſſalians all, tho' various in their name: 835  
 The same their nation, and their chief the same.

But now inglorious, stretch'd along the shore,  
 They hear the brazen voice of war no more;  
 No more the foe they face in dire array:  
 Close in his fleet the angry leader lay: 840

Since fair Briseis from his arms was torn,  
 The noblest spoil from sack'd Lyrnessus born.

Then



Then, when the chief the Theban walls o'erthrew,  
 And the bold sons of great Evenus flew ;  
 There mourn'd Achilles, plung'd in depth of care, 845  
 But soon to rise in slaughter, blood, and war.

To these the youth of Phylacè succeed,  
 Itona, famous for her fleecy breed,  
 And grassy Pteleon deck'd with cheerful greens,  
 The bow'rs of Ceres, and the sylvan scenes, 850  
 Sweet Pyrrhæus, with blooming flowrets crown'd,  
 And Antron's wat'ry dens, and cavern'd ground.

These own'd as chief Protefilas the brave,  
 Who now lay silent in the gloomy grave :

The first who boldly touch'd the Trojan shore, 855  
 And dy'd a Phrygian lance with Grecian gore ;

There lies, far distant from his native plain ;  
 Unfinish'd his proud palaces remain,  
 And his sad consort beats her breast in vain. }

His troops in forty ships Podarces led, 860

Iphiclus' son, and brother to the dead ;

Nor he unworthy to command the host ;

Yet still they mourn'd their ancient leader lost.

The men who Glaphyra's fair soil partake,  
 Where hills encircle Bœbe's lowly lake, 865

Where Pheræ hears the neighb'ring waters fall,  
 Or proud Iölcus lifts her airy wall,

In ten black ships, embark'd for Ilion's shore,

With bold Eumelus, whom Alcestè bore :

All Pelius' race Alcestè far outshin'd, 870

The grace and glory of the beauteous kind.

The troops, Methonè, or Thaumacia yields,

Olizon's rocks, or Melibœa's fields,

With Philoctetes sail'd, whose matchless art,

From the tough bow directs the feather'd dart. 875

Sev'n were his ships ; each vessel fifty row,

Skill'd in his science of the dart and bow ;

But he lay raging on the Lemnian ground,

A pois'nous Hydra gave the burning wound ;

There groan'd the chief in agonizing pain, 880

Whom Greece at length shall wish, nor wish in vain.

His forces Medon led from Lemnos' shore,

Oileus' son, whom beauteous Rhena bore.

Th'



Th' Oechalian race, in those high tow'rs contain'd,  
Where once Eurytus in proud triumph reign'd, 885  
Or where her humbler turrets Tricca rears,  
Or where Ithomè, rough with rocks, appears ;  
In thirty sail the sparkling waves divide,  
Which Podalirius and Machaon guide.

To these his skill their parent God imparts, 890  
Divine professors of the healing arts.

The bold Ormenian and Asterian bands  
In forty barks Eurypulus commands,  
Where Titan hides his hoary head in snow,  
And where Hyperia's silver fountains flow. 895

Thy troops, Argissa, Polypoetes leads,  
And Eleon, shelter'd by Olympus' shades,  
Gyrtonè's warriors, and where Orthè lies,  
And Oleösson's chalky cliffs arise.  
Sprung from Pirithous of immortal race, 900  
The fruit of fair Hippodamè's embrace,  
(That day, when hurl'd from Pelion's cloudy head,  
To distant dens the shaggy centaurs fled)  
With Polypoetes, join'd in equal sway,  
Leonteus leads, and forty ships obey. 905

In twenty sail the bold Perrhæbians came  
From Cyphus, Guneus was their leaders name.  
With these the Enians join'd, and those who freeze,  
Where cold Dodona lifts her holy trees ;  
Or where the pleasing Titaresius glides, 910  
And into Peneus rolls his easy tides ;  
Yet o'er the silver surface pure they flow,  
The sacred stream unmix'd with streams below,  
Sacred and awful ! From the dark abodes  
Styx pours them forth, the dreadful oath of Gods !

Last, under Prothous the Magnesians stood, 915  
Prothous the swift, of old Tenthredon's blood ;  
Who dwell where Pelion, crown'd with piny boughs,  
Obscures the glade, and nods his shaggy brows ;  
Or where thro' flow'ry Tempe Peneus stray'd, 920  
(The region stretch'd beneath his mighty shade) ;  
In forty fable barks they stemm'd the main ;  
Such were the chiefs, and such the Grecian train.

Say next, O muse ! of all Achaia breeds,  
Who bravest fought, or rein'd the noblest steeds ? 925  
Eumelus'



Eumelus' mares were foremost in the chace,  
 As eagles fleet, and of Phyretian race;  
 Bred where Pieria's fruitful fountains flow,  
 And train'd by him who bears the silver bow.  
 Fierce in the fight, their nostrils breath'd a flame, 930  
 Their height, their colour, and their age the same;  
 O'er fields of death they whirl the rapid car,  
 And break the ranks, and thunder thro' the war.

Ajax in arms the first renown acquir'd,  
 While stern Achilles in his wrath retir'd: 935  
 (His was the strength that mortal might exceeds,  
 And his, th' unrival'd race of heav'nly steeds):  
 But Thetis' son now shines in arms no more;  
 His troops, neglected on the sandy shore,  
 In empty air their sportive jav'lines throw: 940  
 Or whirl the disk, or bend an idle bow.

Unstain'd with blood his cover'd chariots stand;  
 Th' immortal coursers graze along the strand;  
 But the brave chiefs th' inglorious life deplor'd,  
 And, wand'ring o'er the camp, requir'd their lord. 945

Now, like a deluge, cov'ring all around,  
 The shining armies sweep along the ground;  
 Swift as a flood of fire, when storms arise,  
 Floats the wide field, and blazes to the skies.  
 Earth groan'd beneath them; as when angry Jove 950  
 Hurls down the forky lightning from above,  
 On Arimè, when he the thunder throws,  
 And fires Typhœus with redoubled blows,  
 Where Typhon, press'd beneath the burning load,  
 Still feels the fury of th' avenging God. 955

But various Iris, Jove's commands to bear,  
 Speeds on the wings of winds through liquid air;  
 In Priam's porch the Trojan chiefs she found,  
 The old consulting, and the youths around.  
 Polites' shape, the monarch's son, she chose, 960  
 Who from Æsetes tomb observ'd the foes,  
 High on the mound; from whence in prospect lay  
 The fields, the tents, the navy, and the bay.  
 In this dissembled form, she hastes to bring  
 Th' unwelcome message to the Phrygian king. 965

Cease to consult, the time for action calls,  
 War, horrid war, approaches to your walls!

Assembled.



Assembled armies oft have I beheld ;  
 But ne'er till now such numbers charg'd a field.  
 Thick as autumnal leaves, or driving sand, 970  
 The moving squadrons blacken all the strand.  
 Thou, Godlike Hector ! all thy force employ,  
 Assemble all th' united bands of Troy ;  
 In just array let ev'ry leader call  
 The foreign troops : this day demands them all. 975

The voice divine the mighty chief alarms ;  
 The council breaks, the warriors rush to arms,  
 The gates unfolding pour forth all their train,  
 Nations on nations fill the dusky plain,  
 Men, steeds, and chariots shake the trembling ground ;  
 The tumult thickens, and the skies resound. 981  
 Amidst the plain, in sight of Ilion stands  
 A rising mount, the work of human hands ;  
 (This for Myrinne's tomb th' immortals know,  
 Tho' call'd Bateia in the world below) ;  
 Beneath their chiefs in martial order here, 985  
 Th' auxiliar troops and Trojan hosts appear.

The godlike Hector, high above the rest,  
 Shakes his huge spear, and nods his plumed crest :  
 In throngs around his native bands repair, 990  
 And groves of lances glitter in the air.

Divine Æneas brings the Dardan race,  
 Anchises' son, by Venus' stol'n embrace,  
 Born in the shades of Ida's secret grove,  
 (A mortal mixing with the queen of love) ; 995  
 Archilochus and Acamas divide  
 The warrior's toils, and combat by his side.

Who fair Zeleia's wealthy valleys till,  
 Fast by the foot of Ida's sacred hill ;  
 Or drink, Æsepus, of thy fable flood ; 1000  
 Were led by Pandarus, of royal blood.  
 To whom his art Apollo deign'd to show,  
 Grac'd with the presents of his shafts and bow.

From rich Apæsus and Adrestia's tow'rs  
 High Tereë's summits, and Pityea's bow'rs : 1005  
 From these the congregated troops obey  
 Young Amphius and Adrastus' equal sway ;  
 Old Merops' sons ; whom, skill'd in fates to come,  
 The fire forewarn'd, and prophesy'd their doom :

Fate



Fate urg'd them on ! the fire forewarn'd in vain, 1010  
They rush'd to war, and perish'd on the plain.

From Practius' stream, Percote's pasture lands,  
And Sestos and Abydos' neighb'ring strands,  
From great Arisba's walls and Selle's coast,  
Asius Hyrtacides conducts his host : 1015

High on his car he shakes the flowing reins,  
His fiery couriers thunder o'er the plains.

The fierce Pelasgi next, in war renown'd,  
March from Larissa's ever fertile ground :  
In equal arms their brother leaders shine, 1020  
Hippothous bold, and Pyleus the divine.

Next, Acamus and Pyrous lead their hosts,  
In dread array, from Thracia's wintry coasts ;  
Round the bleak realms where Hellespontus roars,  
And Boreas beats the hoarse-resounding shores. 1025

With great Euphemus the Ciconians move,  
Sprung from Træzenian Ceüs, lov'd by Jove.

Pyræchmes the Pæonian troops attend,  
Skill'd in the fight their crooked bows to bend ;  
From Axius' ample bed he leads them on, 1030  
Axius, that laves the distant Amydon,  
Axius, that swells with all his neighb'ring rills,  
And wide around the floating region fills.

The Paphlagonians Pylæmenes rules,  
Where rich Hynestia breeds her savage mules, 1035  
Where Erythinus' rising cliffs are seen,  
Thy groves of box, Cytorus ! ever green ;  
And where Ægyalus and Cromna lie,  
And lofty Sesamus invades the sky ;  
And where Parthenius, roll'd thro' banks of flow'rs,  
Reflects her bord'ring palaces and bow'rs. 1041

Here, march'd in arms, the Halizonian band,  
Whom Odius and Epistrophus command,  
From those far regions, where the sun refines  
The ripening silver in Alybæan mines. 1045

There, mighty Chromis led the Mysian train,  
And augur Ennomus, inspir'd in vain,  
For stern Achilles lopt his sacred head,  
Roll'd down Scamander with the vulgar dead.

Phorcys and brave Ascanius here unite 1050  
Th' Ascanian Phrygians, eager for the fight.



Of those who round Mæonia's realms reside,  
Or whom the vales in shade of Tmolus hide,  
Mestles and Antiphus the charge partake ;  
Born on the banks of Gyges' silent lake. 1055  
There, from the fields where wild Meander flows,  
High Mycale, and Latmos' shady brows,  
And proud Miletus, came the Carian throngs,  
With mingled clamours, and with barb'rous tongues.  
Amphimachus and Naustes guide the train, 1060  
Naustes the bold, Amphimachus the vain,  
Who, trick'd with gold, and glitt'ring on his car,  
Rode like a woman to the field of war,  
Fool that he was ! by fierce Achilles slain,  
The river swept him to the briny main ; 1065  
There, whelm'd with waves, the gaudy warrior lies ;  
The valiant victor seiz'd the golden prize.

The forces last in fair array succeed,  
Which blameless Glaucus and Sarpedon lead ;  
The warlike bands that distant Lycia yields, 1070  
Where gulphy Xanthus foams along the fields.

E

THE



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K III.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The duel of Menelaus and Paris.

*T H E* armies being ready to engage, a single combat is agreed upon between Menelaus and Paris (by the intervention of Hector) for the determination of the war, Iris is sent to call Helena to behold the fight. She leads her to the walls of Troy, where Priam sat with his counsellors observing the Grecian leaders on the plain below, to whom Helen gives an account of the chief of them. The kings on either part take the solemn oath for the conditions of the combat. The duel ensues, wherein Paris being overcome, is snatched away in a cloud by Venus, and transported to his apartment. She then calls Helen from the walls, and brings the lovers together. Agamemnon, on the part of the Grecians, demands the restoration of Helen, and the performance of the articles.

*The three and twentieth day still continues throughout this book. The scene is sometimes in the fields before Troy, and sometimes in Troy itself.*

**T**HUS, by their leader's care, each martial band  
 Moves into ranks, and stretches o'er the land,  
 With shouts the Trojans rushing from afar,  
 Proclaim their motions, and provoke the war :  
 So when inclement winters vex the plain  
 With piercing frosts, or thick descending rain,  
 To warmer seas the cranes embody'd fly,  
 With noise, and order, thro' the mid-way sky ;  
 To pigmy nations wounds and death they bring,  
 And all the war descends upon the wing.

TO  
 But



But silent, breathing rage, resolv'd and skill'd  
By mutual aid to fix a doubtful field,  
Swift march the Greeks; the rapid dust around  
Dark'ning arises from the labour'd ground.  
Thus from his flaggy wings, when Notus sheds — 15  
A night of vapours round the mountain-heads,  
Swift-gliding mists the dusky fields invade,  
To thieves more grateful than the mid-night shade:  
While scarce the swains their feeding flocks survey,  
Lost and confus'd amidst the thicken'd day: 20  
So wrapt in gathering dust, the Grecian train  
A moving cloud, swept on, and hid the plain.  
Now front to front the hostile armies stand.  
Eager of fight, and only wait command;  
When, to the van, before the sons of fame 25  
Whom Troy sent forth, the beauteous Paris came:  
In form a God! the panther's speckled hide  
Flow'd o'er his armour with an easy pride,  
His bended bow across his shoulders flung,  
His sword beside him negligently hung, 30  
Two pointed spears he shook with gallant grace,  
And dar'd the bravest of the Grecian race.  
As thus, with glorious air and proud disdain,  
He boldly stalk'd the foremost on the plain,  
Him Menelaus, lov'd of Mars, espies, 35  
With heart elated, and with joyful eyes:  
So joys a lion, if the branching deer,  
Or mountain goat his bulky prize, appear;  
Eager he seizes and devours the slain,  
Prest by bold youths, and baying dogs in vain. — 40  
Thus fond of vengeance, with a furious bound,  
In clanging arms he leaps upon the ground  
From his high chariot: him, approaching near,  
The beauteous champion views with marks of fear.  
Smit with a conscious sense, retires behind, 45  
And shuns the fate he well deserv'd to find.  
As when some shepherd from the rustling trees  
Shot forth to view, a scaly serpent sees;  
Trembling and pale, he starts with wild affright,  
And all confus'd precipitates his flight. 50  
So from the King the shining warrior flies,  
And plung'd amid the thickest Trojans lies.



As godlike Hector sees the prince retreat,  
 He thus upbraids him with a gen'rous heat.  
 Unhappy Paris! but to women brave! 55  
 So fairly form'd, and only to deceive!  
 Oh hadst thou dy'd when first thou saw'st the light!  
 Or dy'd at least before thy nuptial rite!  
 A better fate than vainly thus to boast,  
 And fly, the scandal of thy Trojan host. 60  
 Gods! how the scornful Greeks exult to see  
 Their fears of danger undeceiv'd in thee?  
 Thy figure promis'd with a martial air,  
 But ill thy soul supplies a form so fair.  
 In former days, in all thy gallant pride, 65  
 When thy tall ships triumphant stem'd the tide,  
 When Greece beheld thy painted canvas flow,  
 And crouds stood wond'ring at the passing show;  
 Say, was it thus, with such a baffled mien,  
 You met th' approaches of the Spartan queen; 70  
 Thus from her realm convey'd the beauteous prize,  
 And both her warlike lords outshin'd in Helen's eyes?  
 This deed thy foes delight, thy own disgrace,  
 Thy father's grief, and ruin of thy race;  
 This deed recalls thee to the proffer'd fight; 75  
 Or hast thou injur'd whom thou dar'st not right?  
 Soon to thy cost the field would make thee know,  
 Thou keepst the consort of a braver foe.  
 Thy graceful form instilling soft desire,  
 Thy curling tresses, and thy silver lyre, 80  
 Beauty and youth, in vain to these you trust,  
 When youth and beauty shall be laid in dust:  
 Troy yet may wake, and one avenging blow  
 Crush the dire author of his country's woe.

His silence here, with blushes, Paris breaks: 85  
 'Tis just, my brother, what your anger speaks:  
 But who like thee can boast a soul sedate,  
 So firmly proof to all the shocks of fate!  
 Thy force, like steel, a temper'd hardness shows,  
 Still edg'd to wound, and still untir'd with blows, 90  
 Like steel, uplifted by some strenuous swain,  
 With falling woods to strew the wasted plain.  
 Thy gifts I praise; nor thou despise the charms  
 With which a lover golden Venus arms;

Soft



Soft moving speech, and pleasing outward show, 95  
No wish can gain 'em, but the Gods bestow.

Yet, would'st thou have the proffer'd combat stand,  
The Greeks and Trojans seat on either hand;

Then let a mid-way space our hosts divide,  
And on that stage of war the cause be try'd : 100

By Paris there the Spartan king be fought,  
For beauteous Helen and the wealth she brought;

And who his rival can in arms subdue,  
His be the fair, and his the treasure too.

Thus with a lasting league your toils may cease, 105  
And Troy possess her fertile fields in peace ;

Thus may the Greeks review their native shore,  
Much fam'd for gen'rous steeds, for beauty more.

He said. The challenge Hector heard with joy,  
Then with his spear restrain'd the youth of Troy, 110

Held by the midst, athwart ; and near the foe  
Advanc'd with steps majestically slow.

While round his dauntless head the Grecians pour,  
Their stones and arrows in a mingled show'r.

Then thus the monarch, great Atrides, cry'd ; 115  
Forbear, ye warriors, lay the darts aside :

A parley Hector asks, a message bears ;  
We know him by the various plume he wears,

Aw'd by his high command, the Greeks attend,  
The tumult silence, and the fight suspend. 120

While from the center Hector rolls his eyes  
On either host, and thus to both applies :

Hear, all ye Trojans, all ye Grecian bands !  
What Paris, author of the war, demands.

Your shining swords within the sheath restrain, 125  
And pitch your lances in the yielding plain.

Here, in the midst, in either army's fight,  
He dares the Spartan king to single fight ;

And wills, that Helen and the ravish'd spoil  
That caus'd the contest, shall reward the toil. 130

Let these the brave triumphant victor grace,  
And differing nations part in leagues of peace.

He spoke : in still suspense on either side  
Each army stood : The Spartan chief reply'd :

Me too, ye warriors hear, whose fatal right 135  
A world engages in the toils of fight.



To me the labour of the field resign ;  
 Me Paris injur'd ; all the war be mine.  
 Fall he that must, beneath his rival's arms,  
 And live the rest secure of future harms. 140

Two lambs, devoted by your country's rite,  
 To earth a fable, to the sun a white,  
 Prepare, ye Trojans ! while a third we bring  
 Select to Jove, th' inviolable king.  
 Let rev'rend Priam in the truce engage, 145

And add the sanction of considerate age ;  
 His sons are faithless, headlong in debate,  
 And youth itself an empty wav'ring state :  
 Cool age advances venerably wise,  
 Turns on all hands its deep discerning eyes ; 150  
 Sees what befall, and what may yet befall,  
 Concludes from both, and best provides for all.

The nations hear, with rising hopes possess'd,  
 And peaceful prospects dawn in ev'ry breast.  
 Within the lines they drew their steeds around, 155  
 And from their chariots issu'd on the ground :  
 Next all unbuckling the rich mail they wore,  
 Lay'd their bright arms along the fable shore.  
 On either side the meeting hosts are seen,  
 With lances fix'd, and close the space between. 160  
 Two heralds now dispatch'd to Troy, invite  
 The Phrygian monarch to the peaceful rite ;  
 Talthybius hastens to the fleet to bring  
 The lamb for Jove, th' inviolable king.

Mean-time, to beauteous Helen, from the skies 165  
 The various Goddesses of the rainbow flies ;  
 (Like fair Laodice in form and face,  
 The loveliest nymph of Priam's royal race)  
 Her in the palace, at her loom she found ;  
 The golden web her own sad story crown'd. 170  
 The Trojan wars she weav'd (herself the prize)  
 And the dire triumphs of her fatal eyes.

To whom the Goddesses of the painted bow ;  
 Approach and view the wond'rous scene below !  
 Each hardy Greek, and valiant Trojan knight, 175  
 So dreadful late, and furious for the fight,  
 Now rest their spears, or lean upon their shields ;  
 Ceas'd is the war, and silent all the fields.

Paris



Paris alone, and Sparta's king, advance,  
In single fight to toss the beamy lance; 180  
Each met in arms the fate of combat tries,  
Thy love the motive, and thy charms the prize.  
This said, the many-colour'd maid inspires  
Her husband's love, and wakes her former fires;  
Her country, parents, all that once were dear, 185  
Rush to her thought, and force a tender tear.  
O'er her fair face a snowy veil she threw,  
And, softly sighing, from the loom withdrew.  
Her handmaids Clemene and Æthra wait  
Her silent footsteps to the Scæan gate. 190

There sat the seniors of the Trojan race,  
(Old Priam's chiefs, and most in Priam's grace)  
The king the first; Thymoetes at his side;  
Lampus and Clytius, long in council try'd;  
Panthus, and Hicetaon, once the strong; 195  
And next, the wisest of the rev'rend throng,  
Antenor grave, and sage Ucalegon,  
Lean'd on the walls, and bask'd before the sun.  
Chiefs, who no more in bloody fights engage,  
But wise thro' time, and narrative with age, 200  
In summer days, like grasshoppers rejoice,  
A bloodless race, that sends a feeble voice.  
These, when the Spartan queen approach'd the tow'r  
In secret own'd resistless beauty's pow'r:  
They cry'd, No wonder, such celestial charms 205  
For nine long years have set the world in arms;  
What winning graces! what majestic mien!  
She moves a goddess, and she looks a queen!  
Yet hence, oh heav'n! convey that fatal face,  
And from destruction save the Trojan race. 210

The good old Priam welcom'd her, and cry'd,  
Approach, my child, and grace thy father's side.  
See on the plain thy Grecian spouse appears,  
The friends and kindred of thy former years.  
No crime of thine our present sufferings draws, 215  
Not thou, but heav'n's disposing will, the cause;  
The Gods these armies and this force employ,  
The hostile Gods conspire the fate of Troy.  
But lift thy eyes, and say, what Greek is he,  
(Far as from hence these aged orbs can see) 220

Around



Around whose brow such martial graces shine,  
So tall, so awful, and almost divine?  
Tho' some of larger stature tread the green,  
None match his grandeur and exalted mien:  
He seems a monarch, and his country's pride. 225  
Thus ceas'd the king, and thus the fair reply'd.

Before thy presence, Father, I appear  
With conscious shame and reverential fear.  
Ah, had I dy'd, ere to these walls I fled,  
False to my country, and my nuptial bed, 230  
My brothers, friends, and daughter left behind,  
False to them all, to Paris only kind!  
For this I mourn, till grief or dire disease  
Shall waste the form whose crime it was to please!  
The king of kings, Atrides, you survey, 235  
Great in the war, and great in arts of sway;  
My brother once, before my days of shame,  
And oh! that still he bore a brother's name!

With wonder Priam view'd the god-like man,  
Extoll'd the happy prince, and thus began: 240  
O blest Atrides! born to prosp'rous fate,  
Successful monarch of a mighty state!  
How vast thy empire! of yon matchless train  
What numbers lost, what numbers yet remain!  
In Phrygia once were gallant armies known, 245  
In ancient time, when Otreus fill'd the throne,  
When god-like Mygdon led their troops of horse,  
And I, to join them, rais'd the Trojan force:  
Against the manlike Amazons we stood,  
And Sangar's stream ran purple with their blood. 250  
But far inferior those, in martial grace,  
And strength of numbers, to this Grecian race.

This said, once more he view'd the warrior-train:  
What's he, whose arms lie scatter'd on the plain?  
Broad is his breast, his shoulders larger spread, 255  
Tho' great Atrides overtops his head,  
Nor yet appear his care and conduct small:  
From rank to rank he moves, and orders all.  
The stately ram thus measures o'er the ground,  
And, master of the flock, surveys them round. 260

Then Helen thus. Whom your discerning eyes  
Have singled out, is Ithacus the wise;



A barren island boasts his glorious birth ;  
His fame for wisdom fills the spacious earth.

Antenor took the word, and thus began : 265

Myself, O king ! have seen that wond'rous man ;  
When trusting Jove and hospitable laws,

To Troy he came, to plead the Grecian cause ;  
(Great Menelaus urg'd the same request)

My house was honour'd with each royal guest : 270

I knew their persons, and admir'd their parts,  
Both brave in arms, and both approv'd in arts.

Erect, the Spartan most engag'd our view,

Ulysses seated, greater rev'rence drew.

When Atreus' son harangu'd the list'ning train, 275

Just was his sense, and his expression plain ;

His words succinct, yet full, without a fault ;

He spoke no more than just the thing he ought.

But when Ulysses rose, in thought profound,

His modest eyes he fix'd upon the ground, 280

As one unskill'd or dumb, he seem'd to stand,

Nor rais'd his head, nor stretch'd his sceptred hand ;

But, when he speaks, what elocution flows ?

Soft as the fleeces of descending snows,

The copious accents fall, with easy art ; 285

Melting they fall, and sink into the heart !

Wond'ring we hear, and fix'd in deep surprise,

Our ears refute the censure of our eyes.

The king then ask'd (as yet the camp he view'd)  
What chief is that, with giant strength endu'd, 290

Whose brawny shoulders, and whose swelling chest,

And lofty stature far exceed the rest ?

Ajax the great (the beauteous queen reply'd)

Himself a host : the Grecian strength and pride.

See ! bold Idomeneus superior tow'rs 295

Amidst yon circle of his Cretan pow'rs,

Great as a God ! I saw him once before,

With Menelaus, on the Spartan shore.

The rest I know, and could in order name ;

All valiant chiefs, and men of mighty name. 300

Yet two are wanting of the num'rous train,

Whom long my eyes have sought, but sought in vain ;

Castor and Pollux, first in martial force,

One bold on foot, and one renown'd for horse,

My



My brothers these; the same our native shore, 305  
 One house contain'd us, as one mother bore.  
 Perhaps the chiefs, from warlike toils at ease,  
 For distant Troy refus'd to sail the seas :  
 Perhaps their swords some nobler quarrel draws,  
 Asham'd to combat in their sister's cause. 310

So spoke the fair, nor knew her brother's doom,  
 Wrapt in the cold embraces of the tomb ;  
 Adorn'd with honours in their native shore,  
 Silent they slept, and heard of wars no more.

Mean-time the heralds, thro' the croud'd town, 315  
 Bring the rich wine and destin'd victims down.

Idæus arms the golden goblets prest,  
 Who thus the venerable king address.  
 Arise, O father of the Trojan state !  
 The nations call, thy joyful people wait, 320 }  
 To seal the truce, and end the dire debate.  
 Paris thy son, and Sparta's king advance,  
 In measur'd lifts to toss the weighty lance ;  
 And who his rival shall in arms subdue,  
 His be the dame, and his the treasure too. 325

Thus with a lasting league our toils may cease,  
 And Troy possess her fertile fields in peace ;  
 So shall the Greeks review their native shore,  
 Much fam'd for gen'rous steeds, for beauty more.

With grief he heard, and bade the chiefs prepare 330  
 To join his milk-white couriers to the car :  
 He mounts the seat, Antenor at his side ;  
 The gentle steeds thro' Scæa's gates they guide ;  
 Next from the car descending on the plain,  
 Amid the Grecian host and Trojan train 335  
 Slow they proceed : The sage Ulysses then  
 Arose, and with him rose the king of men.

On either side a sacred herald stands,  
 The wine they mix, and on each monarch's hands  
 Pour the full urn ; then draws the Grecian lord 340  
 His cutlace sheath'd beside his pond'rous sword ;  
 From the sign'd victims crops the curling hair,  
 The heralds part it, and the princes share ;  
 Then loudly thus, before th' attentive bands  
 He calls the Gods, and spreads his lifted hands. 345



O first and greatest pow'r ! whom all obey,  
Who high on Ida's holy mountain sway,  
Eternal Jove ! and you bright orb that roll  
From east to west, and view from pole to pole !  
Thou mother Earth ; and all ye living floods ! 350  
Infernal Furies, and Tartarean Gods,  
Who rule the dead, and horrid woes prepare  
For perjur'd kings, and all who falsely swear !  
Hear, and be witnesses : If, by Paris slain,  
Great Menelaus press the fatal plain ; 355  
The dame and treasures let the Trojan keep,  
And Greece, returning, plow the wat'ry deep ;  
If by my brother's lance the Trojan bleed ;  
Be his the wealth and beauteous dame decreed :  
Th' appointed fine let Ilion justly pay, 360  
And ev'ry age record the signal day.  
This if the Phrygians shall refuse to yield,  
Arms must revenge, and Mars decide the field.

With that the chief the tender victims slew,  
And in the dust their bleeding bodies threw : 365  
The vital spirit issu'd at the wound,  
And left the members quiv'ring on the ground.  
From the same urn they drink the mingled wine,  
And add libations to the pow'rs divine.  
While thus their pray'rs united mount the sky ; 370  
Hear, mighty Jove ! and hear, ye Gods on high !  
And may their blood, who first the league confound,  
Shed like this wine, distain the thirsty ground ;  
May all their comforts serve promiscuous lust,  
And all their race be scatter'd as the dust ! 375  
Thus either host their imprecations join'd,  
Which Jove refus'd, and mingled with the wind.

The rites now finish'd, rev'rend Priam rose,  
And thus express'd a heart o'ercharg'd with woes :  
Ye Greeks and Trojans, let the chiefs engage, 380  
But spare the weakness of my feeble age :  
In yonder walls that object let me shun,  
Nor view the danger of so dear a son,  
Whose arms shall conquer, and what prince shall fall,  
Heav'n only knows, for heav'n disposes all. 385

This said, the hoary king no longer stay'd,  
But on his car the slaughter'd victims laid ;  
Then



Then seiz'd the reins his gentle steeds to guide,  
And drove to Troy, Antenor at his side.

Bold Hector and Ulysses now dispose  
The lists of combat, and the ground inclose: 390

Next to decide by sacred lots prepare,  
Who first shall launch his pointed spear in air;  
The people pray with elevated hands,  
And words like these are heard thro' all the bands: 395

Immortal Jove, high heav'ns superior lord,  
On lofty Ida's holy mount ador'd!

Whoe'er involv'd us in this dire debate,  
Oh give that author of the war to fate  
And shades eternal! let division cease, 400  
And joyful nations join in leagues of peace.

With eyes averted Hector hastes to turn  
The lots of fight, and shakes the brazen urn.  
Then, Paris, thine leap'd forth; by fatal chance  
Ordain'd the first to whirl the weighty lance. 405

Both armies sat, the combat to survey,  
Beside each chief his azure armour lay,  
And round the lists the gen'rous coursers neigh.  
The beauteous warrior now arrays for fight,  
In gilded arms magnificently bright: 410

The purple cuishes clasp his thighs around,  
With flow'rs adorn'd, with silver buckles bound:  
Lycaon's corslet his fair body drest,  
Brac'd in, and fitted to his softer breast;  
A radiant baldric, o'er his shoulder ty'd, 415  
Sustain'd the sword that glitter'd at his side:  
His youthful face a polish'd helm o'erspread;  
The waving horse-hair nodded on his head;  
His figur'd shield, a shining orb, he takes,  
And in his hand a pointed jav'lin shakes. 420

With equal speed, and fir'd by equal charms,  
The Spartan hero sheaths his limbs in arms.

Now round the lists th' admiring armies stand,  
With jav'lins fix'd, the Greek and Trojan band.  
Amidst the dreadful vale, the chiefs advance, 425  
All pale with rage, and shake the threat'ning lance.

The Trojan first his shining jav'lin threw;  
Full on Atrides' ringing shield it flew,  
Nor pierc'd the brazen orb, but with a bound  
Leap'd from the buckler, blunted, on the ground. 430

Atrides



Atrides then his massy lance prepares,  
In act to throw, but first prefers his pray'rs.

Give me, great Jove! to punish lawless lust,  
And lay the Trojan gasping in the dust:  
Destroy th' aggressor, aid my righteous cause, 435  
Avenge the breach of hospitable laws!

Let this example future times reclaim,  
And guard from wrong fair friendship's holy name.  
He said, and pois'd in air the jav'lin sent,  
Through Paris' shield the forceful weapon went, 440

His corslet pierces, and his garment rends,  
And glancing downward, near his flank descends.  
The wary Trojan, bending from the blow,  
Eludes the death, and disappoints his foe:

But fierce Atrides wav'd his sword, and strook 445  
Full on his casque; the crested helmet shook;  
The brittle steel, unfaithful to his hand,  
Broke short, the fragments glitter'd on the sand.

The raging warrior to the spacious skies  
Rais'd his upbraiding voice, and angry eyes: 450  
Then is it vain in Jove himself to trust?  
And is it thus the Gods assist the just?

When crimes provoke us, heav'n success denies;  
The dart falls harmless, and the faulchion flies.  
Furious he said, and tow'rd the Grecian crew 455

(Seiz'd by the crest) th' unhappy warrior drew;  
Struggling he followed, while th' embroider'd thong,  
That ty'd his helmet, dragg'd the chief along.

Then had his ruin crown'd Atrides' joy,  
But Venus trembled for the prince of Troy: 460  
Unseen she came, and burst the golden band;  
And left an empty helmet in his hand.

The casque, enrag'd, amidst the Greeks he threw;  
The Greeks with smiles the polish'd trophy view.  
Then, as once more he lifts the deadly dart, 465  
In thirst of vengeance, at his rival's heart,

The queen of love her favour'd champion shrouds  
(For Gods can all things) in a veil of clouds.  
Rais'd from the field the panting youth she led,  
And gently laid him on the bridal bed, 470

With pleasing sweets his fainting sense renews,  
And all the dome perfumes with heav'nly dews.



Mean-time the brightest of the female kind,  
 The matchless Helen, o'er the walls reclin'd :  
 To her, beset with Trojan beauties, came  
 In borrow'd form the laughter-loving dame. 475

(She seem'd an ancient maid, well skill'd to cull  
 The snowy fleece, and wind the twisted wool.)  
 The Goddesses softly shook her silken vest,  
 That shed perfumes, and whisp'ring thus address : 480

Haste, happy nymph ! for thee thy Paris calls,  
 Safe from the fight, in yonder lofty walls,  
 Fair as a God ! with odours round him spread  
 He lies, and waits thee on the well-known bed :  
 Not like a warrior parted from the foe, 485  
 But some gay dancer in the public show.

She spoke, and Helen's secret soul was mov'd ;  
 She scorn'd the champion, but the man she lov'd.  
 Fair Venus' neck, her eyes that sparkled fire,  
 And breast, reveal'd the queen of soft desire. 490

Struck with her presence, strait the lively red  
 Forsook her cheek ; and, trembling, thus she said,  
 Then is it still thy pleasure to deceive ?  
 And woman's frailty always to believe ?  
 Say, to new nations must I cross the main, 495  
 Or carry wars to some soft Asian plain ?

For whom must Helen break her second vow ?  
 What other Paris is thy darling now ?  
 Left to Atrides, (victor in the strife),  
 An odious conquest and a captive wife, 500  
 Hence let me sail : and if thy Paris bear  
 My absence ill, let Venus ease his care.

A handmaid goddess at his side to wait,  
 Renounce the glories of thy heav'nly state,  
 Be fix'd for ever to the Trojan shore, 505  
 His spouse, or slave ; and mount the skies no more.  
 For me, to lawless love no longer led,  
 I scorn the coward, and detest his bed ;

Else should I merit everlasting shame,  
 And keen reproach, from ev'ry Phrygian dame : 510  
 Ill suits it now the joys of love to know,  
 Too deep my anguish, and too wild my woe.

Then thus incens'd, the Paphian Queen replies ;  
 Obey the pow'r from whom thy glories rise :

Should



Should Venus leave thee, ev'ry charm must fly, 515  
 Fade from thy cheek, and languish in thy eye.  
 Cease to provoke me, lest I make thee more  
 The world's aversion, than their love before :  
 Now the bright prize for which mankind engage,  
 Then, the sad victim of the public rage. 520

At this, the fairest of her sex obey'd,  
 And veil'd her blushes in a silken shade ;  
 Unseen, and silent from the train she moves,  
 Led by the Goddesses of the smiles and loves.

Arriv'd, and enter'd at the palace gate, 525  
 The maids officious round their mistress wait ;  
 Then all dispersing, various tasks attend ;  
 The queen and goddesses to the prince ascend.  
 Full in her Paris' sight, the queen of love  
 Had plac'd the beauteous progeny of Jove ; 530  
 Where, as he view'd her charms, she turn'd away  
 Her glowing eyes, and thus began to say :

Is this the chief, who, lost to sense of shame,  
 Late fled the field, and yet survives his fame ?  
 Oh hadst thou dy'd beneath the righteous sword 535  
 Of that brave man whom once I call'd my lord !  
 The boaster Paris oft desir'd the day  
 With Sparta's king to meet in single fray :  
 Go now, once more thy rival's rage excite,  
 Provoke Atrides, and renew the fight : 540  
 Yet Helen bids thee stay, lest thou unskill'd  
 Shouldst fall an easy conquest on the field.

The prince replies : Ah cease, divinely fair,  
 Nor add reproaches to the wounds I bear ;  
 This day the foe prevail'd by Pallas' pow'r ; 545  
 We yet may vanquish in a happier hour :  
 There want not Gods to favour us above :  
 But let the business of our life be love :  
 These softer moments let delights employ,  
 And kind embraces snatch the hasty joy. 550  
 Not thus I lov'd thee, when from Sparta's shore  
 My forc'd, my willing heav'nly prize I bore,  
 When first entranc'd in Cranaë's isle I lay,  
 Mix'd with thy soul, and all dissolv'd away !  
 Thus having spoke, th' enamour'd Phrygian boy 555  
 Rush'd to the bed, impatient for the joy.



Him Helen follow'd flow with bashful charms,  
And clasp'd the blooming hero in her arms.

While these to love's delicious rapture yield,  
The stern Atrides rages round the field: 560

So some fell lion whom the woods obey,  
Roars through the desert, and demands his prey.

Paris he seeks, impatient to destroy,  
But seeks in vain along the troops of Troy;  
Ev'n those had yielded to a foe so brave 565

The recreant warrior, hateful as the grave.

Then speaking thus, the king of kings arose;

Ye Trojans, Dardans, all our gen'rous foes!

Hear and attest! from heav'n with conquest crown'd,  
Our brother's arms the just success have found: 570

Be therefore now the Spartan wealth restor'd,

Let Argive Helen own her lawful lord;

Th' appointed fine let Ilion justly pay,

And age to age record this signal day.

He ceas'd; his army's loud applauses rise, 575

And the long shout runs echoing thro' the skies.

THE



## I L I A D.

## B O O K IV.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The breach of the truce, and the first battle.

*The gods deliberate in council concerning the Trojan war: they agree upon the continuation of it, and Jupiter sends down Minerva to break the truce. She persuades Pandarus to aim an arrow at Menelaus, who is wounded, but cured by Machaon. In the mean time some of the Trojan troops attack the Greeks. Agamemnon is distinguished in all the parts of a good general; he reviews the troops, and exhorts the leaders, some by praises, and others by reproofs. Nestor is particularly celebrated for his military discipline. The battle joins, and great numbers are slain on both sides.*

*The same day continues through this, as through the last book, (as it does also through the two following, and almost to the end of the seventh book.) The scene is wholly in the field before Troy.*

AND now Olympus' shining gates unfold;  
The Gods, with Jove, assume their thrones of gold:

Immortal Hebe, fresh with bloom divine,  
The golden goblet crowns with purple wine:  
While the full bowls flow round, the pow'rs employ  
Their careful eyes on long-contended Troy. 5

When Jove dispos'd to tempt Saturnia's spleen,  
Thus wak'd the fury of his partial queen:  
Two pow'rs divine the son of Atreus' aid,  
Imperial Juno, and the martial maid; 10  
But high in heav'n they sit, and gaze from far,  
The tame spectators of his deeds of war.  
Not thus fair Venus helps her favour'd knight,  
The queen of pleasures shares the toils of fight,



Each danger wards, and constant in her care, 15  
Saves in the moment of the last despair.

Her act has rescu'd Paris' forfeit life,  
Tho' great Atrides gain'd the glorious strife.  
Then say, ye pow'rs ! what signal issue waits  
To crown this deed, and finish all the fates ? 20

Shall heav'n by peace the bleeding kingdoms spare,  
Or rouse the furies, and awake the war ?

Yet, would the Gods for human good provide,  
Atrides soon might gain his beauteous bride,  
Still Priam's walls in peaceful honours grow, 25  
And thro' his gates the crouding nations flow.

Thus, while he spoke, the queen of heav'n enrag'd,  
And queen of war, in close consult engag'd :

Apart they sit, their deep designs employ,  
And meditate the future woes of Troy. 30

Tho' secret anger swell'd Minerva's breast,  
The prudent Goddess yet her wrath suppress ;

But Juno, impotent of passion, broke  
Her sullen silence, and with fury spoke :

Shall then, O tyrant of th' æthereal reign ! 35  
My schemes, my labours, and my hopes be vain ?

Have I, for this, shook Ilion with alarms,  
Assembled nations, set two worlds in arms ?

To spread the war, I flew from shore to shore ;  
Th' immortal coursers scarce the labour bore. 40

At length ripe vengeance o'er their heads impends,  
But Jove himself the faithless race defends :

Loath as thou art to punish lawless lust,  
Not all the Gods are partial and unjust.

The fire, whose thunder shakes the cloudy skies, 45  
Sighs from his inmost soul, and thus replies :

Oh lasting rancour ! oh insatiate hate,  
To Phrygia's monarch and the Phrygian state !

What high offence has fir'd the wife of Jove,  
Can wretched mortals harm the pow'rs above ? 50

That Troy, and Troy's whole race, thou wouldst con-  
found,

And yon fair structures level with the ground ?

Haste, leave the skies, fulfil thy stern desire :

Burst all her gates, and wrap her walls in fire !

Let



Let Priam bleed ! if yet thou thirst for more, 55  
 Bleed all his sons, and Ilion float with gore ;  
 To boundless vengeance the wide realm be giv'n,  
 Till vast destruction glut the queen of heav'n !  
 So let it be, and Jove his peace enjoy,  
 When heav'n no longer hears the name of Troy. 60  
 But should this arm prepare to wreak our hate  
 On thy lov'd realms, whose guilt demand their fate,  
 Presume not thou the lifted bolt to stay,  
 Remember Troy, and give the vengeance way.  
 For know, of all the num'rous towns that rise 65  
 Beneath the rolling sun, and starry skies,  
 Which gods have rais'd, or earth-born men enjoy,  
 None stands so dear to Jove as sacred Troy.  
 No mortals merit more distinguish'd grace  
 Than godlike Priam, or than Priam's race. 70  
 Still to our name their hecatombs expire,  
 And altars blaze with unextinguish'd fire.

At this the Goddess roll'd her radiant eyes,  
 Then on the Thund'rer fix'd them, and replies :  
 Three towns are Juno's on the Grecian plains, 75  
 More dear than all th' extended earth contains,  
 Mycenæ, Argos, and the Spartan wall ;  
 These thou may'st raze, nor I forbid their fall :  
 'Tis not in me the vengeance to remove ;  
 The crime's sufficient that they share my love. 80  
 Of pow'r superior why should I complain ?  
 Resent I may, but must resent in vain.  
 Yet some distinction Juno might require,  
 Sprung with thyself from one celestial fire,  
 A goddess born to share the realms above, 85  
 And styl'd the consort of the thund'ring Jove ;  
 Nor thou a wife and sister's right deny ;  
 Let both consent, and both by turns comply ;  
 So shall the Gods our joint decrees obey,  
 And heav'n shall act as we direct the way. 90  
 See, ready Pallas waits thy high commands,  
 To raise in arms the Greek and Phrygian bands ;  
 Their sudden friendship by her arts may cease,  
 And the proud Trojans first infringe the peace.

The fire of men, and monarch of the sky, 95  
 Th' advice approv'd, and bade Minerva fly,

Dissolve



Dissolve the league, and all her arts employ,  
To make the breach the faithless act of Troy.

Fir'd with the charge, she headlong urg'd her flight,  
And shot like light'ning from Olympus height. 100

As the red comet, from Saturnius sent  
To fright the nations with a dire portent,

(A fatal sign to armies on the plain,  
Or trembling sailors on the wintry main),  
With sweeping glories glides along in air, 105  
And shakes the sparkles from its blazing hair :

Between both armies thus, in open fight,  
Shot the bright Goddess in a trail of light.

With eyes erect the gazing hosts admire  
The pow'r descending, and the heav'ns on fire! 110

The Gods, (they cry'd), the Gods this signal sent,  
And fate now labours with some vast event :

Jove seals the league, or bloodier scenes prepares ;  
Jove, the great arbiter of peace and wars :

They said, while Pallas thro' the Trojan throng 115  
(In shape a mortal) pass'd disguis'd along.

Like bold Laödocus, her course she bent,  
Who from Antenor trac'd his high descent.

Amidst the ranks Lycaön's son she found,  
The warlike Pandarus, for strength renown'd ; 120

Whose squadrons led from black Æsepus flood.  
With flaming shields in martial circle stood.

To him the Goddess : Phrygian ! canst thou hear  
A well-tim'd counsel with a willing ear ?

What praise were thine, couldst thou direct thy dart 125  
Amidst his triumph, to the Spartan's heart ?

What gifts from Troy, from Paris wouldst thou gain,  
Thy country's foe, the Grecian glory slain ?

Then seize th' occasion, dare the mighty deed,  
Aim at his breast, and may that aim succeed ! 130

But first, to speed the shaft, address thy vow  
To Lycian Phœbus with the silver bow,

And swear the firstlings of thy flock to pay  
On Zelia's altars, to the God of day.

He heard, and madly at the motion pleas'd, 135  
His polish'd bow with hasty rashness seiz'd.

'Twas form'd of horn, and smooth'd with artful toil ;  
A mountain-goat resign'd the shining spoil.

Who,



Who, pierc'd long since, beneath his arrows bled,  
 The stately quarry on the cliffs lay dead, 140  
 And sixteen palms his brow's large honours spread:  
 The workman join'd, and shap'd the bended horns,  
 And beaten gold each taper point adorns.

This, by the Greeks unseen, the warrior bends,  
 Screen'd by the shields of his surrounding friends. 145

There meditates the mark; and couching low,  
 Fits the sharp arrow to the well-strung bow.  
 One from a hundred feather'd deaths he chose,  
 Fated to wound, and cause of future woes.  
 Then offers vows, with hecatombs to crown  
 Apollo's altars in his native town. 150

Now with full force the yielding horn he bends,  
 Drawn to an arch, and joins the doubling ends;  
 Close to his breast he strains the nerve below,  
 Till the barb'd point approach the circling bow; 155  
 Th' impatient weapon whizzes on the wing;  
 Sounds the tough horn, and twangs the quiv'ring string.

But thee, Atrides! in that dang'rous hour,  
 The Gods forget not, nor thy guardian pow'r.  
 Pallas assists, and (weaken'd in its force) 160  
 Diverts the weapon from its destin'd course:

So from her babe, when slumber seals his eye,  
 The watchful mother wafts th' envenom'd fly.  
 Just where his belt with golden buckles join'd,  
 Where linen folds the double corslet lin'd, 165  
 She turn'd the shaft, which hissing from above,  
 Pass'd the broad belt, and through the corslet drove;  
 The folds it pierc'd, the plaited linen tore,  
 And raz'd the skin, and drew the purple gore.

As when some stately trappings are decreed 170  
 To grace a monarch on his bounding steed,  
 A nymph in Caria or Mæonia bred,

Stains the pure iv'ry with a lively red;  
 With equal lustre various colours vie,  
 The shining whiteness, and the Tyrian dye: 175

So great Atrides! show'd thy sacred blood,  
 As down thy snowy thigh distill'd the streaming flood.  
 With horror seiz'd, the king of men descry'd  
 The shaft unfix'd, and saw the gushing tide:

Nor



Nor less the Spartan fear'd, before he found 180  
The shining barb appear above the wound.

Then, with a sigh, that heav'd his manly breast,  
The royal brother thus his grief exprest,  
And grasp'd his hand ; while all the Greeks around  
With answering sighs return'd the plaintive sound. 185

Oh dear as life ! did I for this agree  
The solemn truce, a fatal truce to thee !  
Wert thou expos'd to all the hostile train,  
To fight for Greece, and conquer, to be slain ?  
The race of Trojans in thy ruin join, 190  
And faith is scorn'd by all the perjur'd line.

Not thus our vows, confirm'd with wine and gore,  
Those hands we plighted, and those oaths we swore,  
Shall all be vain : when heav'n's revenge is slow,  
Jove but prepares to strike the fiercer blow. 195

The day shall come, that great avenging day,  
Which Troy's proud glories in the dust shall lay,  
When Priam's pow'rs and Priam's self shall fall,  
And one prodigious ruin swallow all.

I see the God, already, from the pole, 200  
Bare his red arm, and bid the thunder roll ;

I see th' Eternal all his fury shed,  
And shake his ægis o'er their guilty head.  
Such mighty woes on perjur'd princes wait ;  
But thou, alas ! deserv'st a happier fate. 205

Still must I mourn the period of thy days,  
And only mourn, without my share of praise !  
Depriv'd of thee, the heartless Greeks no more  
Shall dream of conquests on the hostile shore ;  
Troy seiz'd of Helen, and our glory lost, 210

Thy bones shall moulder on a foreign coast :  
While some proud Trojan thus insulting cries,  
(And spurns the dust where Menelaus lies),  
“ Such are the trophies Greece from Ilion brings,  
“ And such the conquest of her king of kings ! 215

“ Lo his proud vessels scatter'd o'er the main,  
“ And unreveng'd, his mighty brother slain.”

Oh ! ere that dire disgrace shall blast my fame,  
O'erwhelm me, earth ! and hide a monarch's shame.  
He said : a leader's and a brother's fears 220

Possess his soul, which thus the Spartan cheers :  
Let



Let not thy words the warmth of Greece abate ;  
 The feeble dart is guiltless of my fate :  
 Stiff with the rich embroider'd work around,  
 My vary'd belt repell'd the flying wound. 225

To whom the king : My brother and my friend,  
 Thus, always thus, may heav'n thy life defend !  
 Now seek some skilful hand, whose pow'rful art  
 May staunch th' effusion, and extract the dart.  
 Herald, be swift, and bid Machaön bring 230  
 His speedy succour to the Spartan king ;  
 Pierc'd with a winged shaft (the deed of Troy)  
 The Grecian's sorrow, and the Dardan's joy.

With hasty zeal the swift Talthybius flies ;  
 Thro' the thick files he darts his searching eyes, 235  
 And finds Machaön, where sublime he stands  
 In arms encircled with his native bands.  
 Then thus : Machaön, to the king repair,  
 His wounded brother claims thy tamely care ;  
 Pierc'd by some Lycian or Dardanian bow, 240  
 A grief to us, a triumph to the foe.

The heavy tidings griev'd the godlike man ;  
 Swift to his succour through the ranks he ran ;  
 The dauntless king yet standing firm he found,  
 And all the chiefs in deep concern around. 245  
 Where to the steely point the reed was join'd,  
 The shaft he drew, but left the head behind.  
 Straight the broad belt with gay embroid'ry grac'd,  
 He loos'd ; the corslet from his breast unbrac'd ;  
 Then suck'd the blood, and sov'reign balm infus'd, 250  
 Which Hiron gave, and Æsculapius us'd.

While round the prince the Greeks employ their care,  
 The Trojans rush tumultuous to the war ;  
 Once more they glitter in refulgent arms,  
 Once more the fields are fill'd with dire alarms. 255  
 Nor had you seen the king of men appear  
 Confus'd, unactive, or surpris'd with fear ;  
 But fond of glory, with severe delight,  
 His beating bosom claim'd the rising fight.  
 No longer with his warlike steeds he staid, 260  
 Or press'd the car with polish'd brass inlay'd :  
 But left Eurymedon the reins to guide ;  
 The fiery couriers snorted at his side.

On



On foot thro' all the martial ranks he moves,  
 And these encourages, and those reproves, 265  
 Brave men ! he cries, to such who boldly dare  
 Urge their swift steeds to face the coming war,  
 Your ancient valour on the foes approve ;  
 Jove is with Greece, and let us trust in Jove.

'Tis not for us, but guilty Troy to dread, 270  
 Whose crimes sit heavy on her perjur'd head ;  
 Her sons and matrons Greece shall lead in chains,  
 And her dead warriors strew the mournful plains.

Thus with new ardour he the brave inspires ;  
 Or thus the fearful with reproaches fires : 275  
 Shame to your country, scandal of your kind !  
 Born to the fate ye well deserv'd to find !

Why stand ye gazing round the dreadful plain,  
 Prepar'd for flight, but doom'd to fly in vain ?  
 Confus'd and panting thus, the hunted deer 280  
 Falls as he flies, a victim to his fear ;

Still must ye wait the foes, and still retire,  
 Till yon tall vessels blaze with Trojan fire ?  
 Or trust ye, Jove a valiant foe shall chase,  
 To save a trembling, heartless, dastard race ? 285

This said, he stalk'd with ample strides along,  
 To Crete's brave monarch and his martial throng ;  
 High at their head he saw their chief appear,  
 And bold Meriones excite the rear.

At this the king his gen'rous joy exprest, 290  
 And clasp'd the warrior to his armed breast,  
 Divine Idomeneus ! what thanks we owe  
 To worth like thine ? what praise shall we bestow ?  
 To thee the foremost honours are decreed,  
 First in the fight, and ev'ry graceful deed. 295

For this, in banquets, when the gen'rous bowls  
 Restore our blood, and raise the warriors souls,  
 Tho' all the rest with stated rules we bound,  
 Unmix'd, unmeasur'd are thy goblets crown'd.  
 Be still thyself ; in arms a mighty name ; 300  
 Maintain thy honours, and enlarge thy fame.

To whom the Cretan thus his speech addrest :  
 Secure of me, O King, exhort the rest :  
 Fix'd to thy side, in ev'ry toil I share,  
 Thy firm associate in the day of war. 305

But



But let the signal be this moment giv'n ;  
To mix in fight is all I ask of heav'n.  
The field shall prove how perjuries succeed,  
And chains or death avenge their impious deed.

Charm'd with this heat, the king his course pursues,  
And next the troops of either Ajax views : 314

In one firm orb the bands were rang'd around,  
A cloud of heroes blacken'd all the ground.

Thus from the lofty promontory's brow,  
A swain surveys the gath'ring storm below ; 315

Slow from the main the heavy vapours rise,  
Spread in dim streams, and sail along the skies,

Till black at night the swelling tempest shows,  
The cloud condensing as the west-wind blows ;

He dreads th' impending storm, and drives his flock 320  
To the close covert of an arching rock.

Such, and so thick, th' embattled squadrons stood,  
With spears erect, a moving iron wood ;

A shady light was shot from glimm'ring shields,  
And their brown arms obscur'd the dusky fields. 325

O heroes ! worthy such a dauntless train,  
Whose godlike virtue we but urge in vain,

(Exclaim'd the king), who raise your eager bands  
With great examples, more than loud commands.

Ah would the Gods but breathe in all the rest 330  
Such souls as burn in your exalted breast !

Soon should our arms with just success be crown'd,  
And Troy's proud walls lie smoking on the ground.

Then to the next the gen'ral bends his course ;  
(His heart exults, and glories in his force.) 335

There rev'rend Nestor ranks his Pylian bands,  
And with inspiring eloquence commands ;

With strictest order set his train in arms,  
The chiefs advises, and the soldiers warms.

Alastor, Chromius, Hæmon round him wait, 340  
Bias the good, and Pelagon the great,

The horse and chariots to the front assign'd,  
The foot (the strength of war) he rang'd behind ;

The middle space suspected troops supply,  
Inclos'd by both, nor left the power to fly : 345

He gives command to curb the fiery steed,  
Nor cause confusion, nor the ranks exceed ;



Before the rest let none too rashly ride ;  
No strength nor skill, but just in time, be try'd :  
The charge once made, no warrior turn the rein, 350  
But fight, or fall ; a firm, embody'd train.

He whom the fortune of the field shall cast  
From forth his chariot, mount the next in haste ;  
Nor seek unpractis'd to direct the car,  
Content with jav'lines to provoke the war. 355

Our great forefathers held this prudent course,  
Thus rul'd their ardour, thus preserv'd their force,  
By laws like these immortal conquests made,  
And earth's proud tyrants low in ashes laid.

So spoke the master of the martial art, 360  
And touch'd with transport great Atrides' heart.

Oh ! hadst thou strength to match thy brave desires,  
And nerves to second what thy soul inspires !  
But wasting years that wither human race,  
Exhaust thy spirits, and thy arms unbrace. 365

What once thou wert, Oh ever mightst thou be !  
And age the lot of any chief but thee.

Thus to th' experienc'd prince Atrides cry'd ;  
He shook his hoary locks, and thus reply'd :  
Well might I wish, could mortal wish renew 370

That strength which once in boiling youth I knew ;  
Such as I was, when Ereuthalion slain

Beneath this arm fell prostrate on the plain.

But heav'n its gifts not all at once bestows,

These years with wisdom crowns, with action those :

The field of combat fits the young and bold, 376

The solemn council best becomes the old :

To you the glorious conflict I resign,

Let sage advice, the palm of age, be mine.

He said. With joy the monarch march'd before, 380

And found Menestheus on the dusty shore,

With whom the firm Athenian phalanx stands ;

And next Ulysses, with his subject bands.

Remote their forces lay, nor knew so far

The peace infring'd, nor heard the sounds of war ; 385

The tumult late begun, they stood intent

To watch the motion, dubious of th' event.

The king, who saw their squadrons yet unmov'd,

With hasty ardour thus the chiefs reprov'd.



Can Peteus' son forget a warrior's part,  
 And fears Ulysses, skill'd in ev'ry art ?  
 Why stand you distant, and the rest expect  
 To mix in combat, which yourselves neglect :  
 From you 'twas hop'd, among the first, to dare  
 The shock of armies, and commence the war. 395  
 For this your names are call'd, before the rest,  
 To share the pleasures of the genial feast :  
 And can you, chiefs ! without a blush survey  
 Whole troops before you lab'ring in the fray ?  
 Say, is it thus, those honours you requite ? 400  
 The first in banquets, but the last in fight.

Ulysses heard : the heroes warmth o'erspread  
 His cheek with blushes : and severe, he said :  
 Take back th' unjust reproach ! Behold we stand,  
 Sheath'd in bright arms, and but expect command. 405  
 If glorious deeds afford thy soul delight,  
 Behold me plunging in the thickest fight.  
 Then give thy warrior-chief a warrior's due,  
 Who dares to act what e'er thou dar'st to view.

Struck with his gen'rous wrath, the king replies : 410  
 Oh great in action, and in council wise !  
 With ours, thy care and ardour are the same,  
 Nor need I to command, nor ought to blame,  
 Sage as thou art, and learn'd in human kind,  
 Forgive the transport of a martial mind. 415  
 Haste to the fight, secure of just amends ;  
 The Gods that make, shall keep the worthy, friends.

He said, and pass'd where great Tydides lay,  
 His steeds and chariots wedg'd in firm array :  
 (The warlike Sthenelus attends his side) ; 420  
 To whom with stern reproach the monarch cry'd ;  
 Oh son of Tydeus ! (he whose strength could tame  
 The bounding steed, in arms a mighty name),  
 Canst thou, remote, the mingling hosts descry,  
 With hands unactive and a careless eye ! 425  
 Not thus thy sire the fierce encounter fear'd ;  
 Still first in front the matchless prince appear'd :  
 What glorious toils, what wonders they recite,  
 Who view'd him lab'ring thro' the ranks of fight ;  
 I saw him once, when gath'ring martial pow'rs 430  
 A peaceful guest, he fought Mycenæ's tow'rs ;



Armies he ask'd, and armies had been giv'n,  
 Not we deny'd, but Jove forbade from heav'n;  
 While dreadful comets glaring from afar,  
 Forewarn'd the horrors of the Thèban war, 435  
 Next, sent by Greece from where Asopus flows,  
 A fearless envoy, he approach'd the foes;  
 Thebe's hostile walls, unguarded and alone,  
 Dauntless he enters, and demands the throne.  
 The tyrant feasting with his chiefs he found, 440  
 And dar'd to combat all those chiefs around;  
 Dar'd and subdu'd, before their haughty lord;  
 For Pallas strung his arm, and edg'd his sword.  
 Stung with the shame, within the winding way,  
 To bar his passage fifty warriors lay; 445  
 Two heroes led the secret squadron on,  
 Mœon the fierce, and hardy Lycophon;  
 Those fifty slaughter'd in the gloomy vale,  
 He spar'd but one to bear the dreadful tale,  
 Such Tydeus was, and such his martial fire: 450  
 Gods! how the son degen'rates from the fire?  
 No words the godlike Diomed return'd,  
 But heard respectful, and in secret burn'd:  
 Not so fierce Capaneus' undaunted son,  
 Stern as his fire, the boaster thus begun: 455  
 What needs, O monarch! this invidious praise,  
 Ourselves to lessen, while our fires you raise?  
 Dare to be just, Atrides! and confess  
 Our valour equal, tho' our fury less;  
 With fewer troops we storm'd the Theban wall, 460  
 And happier saw the sev'nfold city fall.  
 In impious acts the guilty fathers dy'd;  
 The sons subdu'd, for heav'n was on their side.  
 Far more than heirs of all our parents fame,  
 Our glories darken their diminish'd name. 465  
 To him Tydides thus. My friend, forbear,  
 Suppress thy passion, and the king revere:  
 His high concern may well excuse this rage,  
 Whose cause we follow, and whose war we wage;  
 His the first praise, were Ilion's tow'rs o'erthrown, 470  
 And, if we fail, the chief disgrace his own.  
 Let him the Greeks to hardy toils excite,  
 'Tis ours to labour in the glorious fight.

He



He spoke, and ardent, on the trembling ground  
 Sprung from his car; his ringing arms resound. 475  
 Dire was the clang, and dreadful from afar,  
 Of arm'd Tydides rushing to the war.

As when the winds, ascending by degrees,  
 First move the whit'ning surface of the seas,  
 The billows float in order to the shore, 480

The wave behind rolls on the wave before;  
 Till, with the growing storm, the deeps arise,  
 Foam o'er the rocks, and thunder to the skies.  
 So to the fight the thick battalions throng,  
 Shields urg'd on shields, and men drove men along, 485

Sedate and silent move the num'rous bands;  
 No sound, no whisper, but the chief's commands,  
 Those only heard; with awe the rest obey,  
 As if some God had snatch'd their voice away.

Not so the Trojans; from their host ascends 490  
 A gen'ral shout, that all the region rends.

As when the fleecy flocks unnumber'd stand  
 In wealthy folds, and wait the milker's hand,  
 The hollow vales incessant bleating fills,  
 The lambs reply from all the neighb'ring hills: 495

Such clamours rose from various nations round,  
 Mix'd was the murmur, and confus'd the sound.  
 Each host now joins, and each a god inspires,  
 These Mars incites, and those Minerva fires.

Pale Flight around, and dreadful Terror reign; 500  
 And Discord raging bathes the purple plain;

Discord! dire sister of the slaught'ring pow'r,  
 Small at her birth; but rising ev'ry hour,  
 While scarce the skies her horrid head can bound,  
 She stalks on earth, and shakes the world around; 505

The nations bleed, where e'er her steps she turns,  
 The groan still deepens, and the combat burns.

Now shield with shield, with helmet helmet clos'd,  
 To armour armour, lance to lance oppos'd,  
 Host against host with shadowy squadrons drew, 510  
 The sounding darts in iron tempests flew,

Victors and vanquish'd join promiscuous cries,  
 And shrilling shouts and dying groans arise;  
 With streaming blood the slipp'ry fields are dy'd,  
 And slaughter'd heroes swell the dreadful tide. 515



As torrents roll, increas'd by num'rous rills,  
With rage impetuous down their echoing hills;  
Rush to the vales, and pour'd along the plain,  
Roar thro' a thousand channels to the main;  
The distant shepherd trembling hears the sound: 520  
So mix both hosts, and so their cries rebound.

The bold Antilochus the slaughter led,  
The first who struck a valiant Trojan dead:  
At great Echepolus the lance arrives,  
Raz'd his high crest, and thro' his helmet drives; 525  
Warm'd in the brain the brazen weapon lies,  
And shades eternal settle o'er his eyes.  
So sinks a tow'r, that long assaults had stood  
Of force and fire; its walls besmear'd with blood.  
Him, the bold leader of th' Abantian throng 530  
Seiz'd to despoil, and dragg'd the corpse along:  
But while he strove to tug th' inserted dart,  
Agenor's jav'lin reach'd the hero's heart.  
His flank unguarded by his ample shield,  
Admits the lance; he falls, and spurns the field; 535  
The nerves, umbrac'd, support his limbs no more;  
The soul comes floating in a tide of gore.  
Trojans and Greeks now gather round the slain;  
The war renews, the warriors bleed again;  
As o'er their prey rapacious wolves engage, 540  
Man dies on man, and all is blood and rage.

In blooming youth fair Simoisius fell,  
Sent by great Ajax to the shades of hell:  
Fair Simoisius, whom his mother bore,  
Amid the flocks on silver Simois' shore: 545  
The nymph descending from the hills of Ide,  
To seek her parents on his flow'ry side,  
Brought forth the babe, their common care and joy,  
And thence, from Simois nam'd, the lovely boy;  
Short was his date! by dreadful Ajax slain, 550  
He falls, and renders all their cares in vain!  
So falls a poplar, that in wat'ry ground  
Rais'd high the head, with stately branches crown'd,  
(Fell'd by some artist with his shining steel,  
To shape the circle of the bending wheel); 555  
Cut down it lies, tall, smooth, and largely spread,  
With all its beauteous honours on its head;

There



There, left a subject to the wind and rain,  
 And scorch'd by suns, it withers on the plain.  
 Thus pierc'd by Ajax, Simoïsius lies  
 560 Stretch'd on the shore, and thus neglected dies.

At Ajax Antiphus his jav'lin threw;  
 The pointed lance with erring fury flew,  
 And Leucas, lov'd by wise Ulysses, flew.  
 He drops the corpse of Simoïsius slain,  
 565 And sinks a breathless carcase on the plain.  
 This saw Ulysses, and with grief enrag'd  
 Strode where the foremost of the foes engag'd;  
 Arm'd with his spear, he meditates the wound,  
 In act to throw; but cautious look'd around.  
 570 Struck at his sight the Trojans backward drew,  
 And trembling, heard the jav'lin as it flew.

A chief stood nigh, who from Abydos came,  
 Old Priam's son, Democoön was his name;  
 The weapon enter'd close above his ear,  
 575 Cold through his temples glides the whizzing spear;  
 With piercing shrieks the youth resigns his breath,  
 His eye-balls darken with the shades of death;  
 Pond'rous he falls; his clanging arms resound,  
 And his broad buckler rings against the ground.  
 580

Seiz'd with affright, the boldest foes appear;  
 Ev'n godlike Hector seems himself to fear:  
 Slow he gave way, the rest tumultuous fled;  
 The Greeks with shouts press on, and spoil the dead;  
 But Phœbus now, from Ilion's tow'ring height,  
 585 Shines forth reveal'd, and animates the fight,  
 Trojans, be bold, and force with force oppose;  
 Your foaming steeds urge headlong on the foes!  
 Nor are their bodies rocks, nor ribb'd with steel;  
 Your weapons enter, and your strokes they feel.  
 590 Have ye forgot what seem'd your dread before?  
 The great, the fierce Achilles fights no more.

Apollo thus, from Ilion's lofty tow'rs,  
 Array'd in terrors, rous'd the Trojan pow'rs:  
 While war's fierce Goddess fires the Grecian foe,  
 595 And shouts and thunders in the fields below.  
 Then great Diores fell, by doom divine,  
 In vain his valour, and illustrious line.



A broken rock the force of Pirus threw,  
 (Who from cold *Ænus* led the Thracian crew); 600  
 Fall on his ancle dropt the pond'rous stone,  
 Burst the strong nerves, and crash'd the solid bone:  
 Supine he tumbles on the crimson sands,  
 Before his helpless friends, and native bands,  
 And spreads for aid his unavailing hands. 605  
 The foe rush'd furious as he pants for breath,  
 And thro' his navel drove the pointed death:  
 His gushing entrails smok'd upon the ground,  
 And the warm life came issuing from the wound.

His lance bold Thoas at the conqu'ror sent, 610  
 Deep in his breast above the pap it went,  
 Amid the lungs was fix'd the winged wood,  
 And quiv'ring in his heaving bosom stood:  
 Till from the dying chief, approaching near,  
 Th' *Ætolian* warrior tugg'd his weighty spear: 615  
 Then sudden wav'd his flaming faulchion round,  
 And gash'd his belly with a ghastly wound;  
 The corpse now breathless on the bloody plain,  
 To spoil his arms the victor strove in vain;  
 The Thracian bands against the victor prest; 620  
 A grove of lances glitter'd at his breast.  
 Stern Thoas, glaring with revengeful eyes,  
 In sullen fury slowly quits the prize.

Thus fell two heroes; one the pride of Thrace,  
 And one the leader of th' *Epian* race; 625  
 Death's sable shade at once o'ercast their eyes,  
 In dust the vanquish'd, and the victor lies.  
 With copious slaughter all the fields are red,  
 And heap'd with growing mountains of the dead.

Had some brave chief this martial scene beheld, 630  
 By Pallas guarded thro' the dreadful field:  
 Might darts be bid to turn their points away,  
 And swords around him innocently play;  
 The war's whole art with wonder had he seen,  
 And counted heroes where he counted men. 635

So fought each host, with thirst of glory fir'd,  
 And crouds on crouds triumphantly expir'd.



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K V.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The acts of Diomed.

*Diomed, assisted by Pallas, performs wonders in this day's battle. Pandarus wounds him with an arrow, but the goddess cures him, enables him to discern gods from mortals, and prohibits him from contending with any of the former, excepting Venus. Æneas joins Pandarus to oppose him, Pandarus is killed, and Æneas in great danger, but for the assistance of Venus; who, as she is removing her son from the fight, is wounded on the hand by Diomed. Apollo seconds her in his rescue, and at length carries off Æneas to Troy, where he is healed in the temple of Pergamus. Mars rallies the Trojans, and assists Hector to make a stand. In the mean time Æneas is restored to the field, and they overthrow several of the Greeks: among the rest Tlepolemus is slain by Sarpedon. Juno and Minerva descend to resist Mars; the latter incites Diomed to go against that God; he wounds him, and sends him groaning to heaven.*

*The first battle continues through this book. The scene is the same as in the former.*

**B**UT Pallas now Tydides' soul inspires,  
 Fills with her force and warms with all her fires,  
 Above the Greeks his deathless fame to raise,  
 And crown her hero with distinguish'd praise.  
 High on his helm celestial lightnings play,  
 His beamy shield emits a living ray ;  
 Th' unweary'd blaze incessant streams supplies,  
 Like the red star that fires th' autumnal skies,

5

When



When fresh he rears his radiant orb to fight,  
 And bath'd in ocean, shoots a keener light. 10  
 Such glories Pallas on the chief bestow'd,  
 Such, from his arms, the fierce effulgence flow'd:  
 Onward she drives him, furious to engage,  
 Where the fight burns, and where the thickest rage.

The sons of Dares first the combat fought, 15  
 A wealthy priest, but rich without a fault;  
 In Vulcan's fane the father's days were led,  
 The sons to toils of glorious battle bred;  
 These singled from their troops the fight maintain,  
 These from their steeds, Tydides on the plain. 20  
 Fierce for renown the brother chiefs draw near,  
 And first bold Phegeus cast his sounding spear,  
 Which o'er the warrior's shoulder took its course,  
 And spent in empty air its erring force.  
 Not so, Tydides, flew thy lance in vain, 25  
 But pierc'd his breast, and stretch'd him on the plain.  
 Seiz'd with unusual fear, Idæus fled,  
 Left the rich chariot, and his brother dead.  
 And had not Vulcan lent celestial aid,  
 He too had sunk to death's eternal shade: 30  
 But in a smoky cloud the God of fire  
 Preserv'd the son in pity to the fire.  
 The steeds and chariot, to the navy led,  
 Increas'd the spoils of gallant Diomed.

Struck with amaze and shame, the Trojan crew, 35  
 Or slain, or fled, the sons of Dares view;  
 When by the blood-stain'd hand Minerva prest  
 The God of battles, and this speech addrest:  
 Stern pow'r of war! by whom the mighty fall,  
 Who bathe in blood, and shake the lofty wall! 40  
 Let the brave chiefs their glorious toils divide;  
 And whose the conquest, mighty Jove decide:  
 While we from interdicted fields retire,  
 Nor tempt the wrath of heav'n's avenging fire.

Her words allay th' impetuous warrior's heat, 45  
 The God of arms and martial maid retreat;  
 Remov'd from fight, on Xanthus' flow'ry bounds  
 They sat, and listen'd to the dying sounds.

Mean-time, the Greeks the Trojan race pursue,  
 And some bold chieftain ev'ry leader slew; 50

First



First Odius falls, and bites the bloody sand,  
His death ennobled by Atreides' hand ;  
As he to flight his wheeling car addrest,  
The speedy jav'lin drove from back to breast.  
In dust the mighty Halizonian lay,  
His arms resound, the spirit wings its way.

55

Thy fate was next, O Phæstus ! doom'd to feel  
The great Idomeneus' portended steel ;  
Whom Borus sent (his son and only joy)  
From fruitful Tarne to the fields of Troy,  
The Cretan jav'lin reach'd him from afar,  
And pierc'd his shoulder as he mounts his car ;  
Back from the car he tumbles to the ground,  
And everlasting shades his eyes surround.

60

Then dy'd Scamandrius, expert in chace,  
In woods and wilds to wound the savage race ;  
Diana taught him all her sylvan arts,  
To bend the bow, and aim unerring darts :  
But vainly here Diana's arts he tries,  
The fatal lance arrests him as he flies :  
From Menelaüs' arm the weapon sent,  
Through his broad back and heaving bosom went :  
Down sinks the warrior with a thund'ring sound,  
His brazen armour rings against the ground.

65

Next artful Phereclus untimely fell ;  
Bold Merion sent him to the realms of hell.  
Thy father's skill, O Phereclus, was thine,  
The graceful fabric and the fair design ;  
For lov'd by Pallas, Pallas did impart  
To him the shipwright's and the builder's art.

70

Beneath his hand the fleet of Paris rose,  
The fatal cause of all his country's woes ;  
But he, the mystic will of heav'n unknown,  
Nor saw his country's peril, nor his own.  
The hapless artist, while confus'd he fled,  
The spear of Merion mingled with the dead.  
Through his right hip, with forceful fury cast,  
Between the bladder and the bone it past :  
Prone on his knees he falls with fruitless cries,  
And death in lasting slumber seals his eyes

75

80

85

90

From Meges' force the swift Pedæus fled,  
Antenor's offspring from a foreign bed,

Whose



Whose gen'rous spouse, Theano, heav'nly fair,  
 Nurs'd the young stranger with a mother's care.  
 How vain those cares ! when Meges in the rear 95  
 Full in his nape infix'd the fatal spear ;

Swift thro' his crackling jaws the weapon glides,  
 And the cold tongue the grinning teeth divides.

Then dy'd Hypsenor, gen'rous and divine,  
 Sprung from the brave Dolopion's mighty line, 100  
 Who near ador'd Scamander made abode,  
 Priest of the stream, and honour'd as a god.

On him, amidst the flying numbers found,

Eurypylus inflicts a deadly wound ;

On his broad shoulders fell the forceful brand, 105

Thence glancing downward lopp'd his holy hand,

Which stain'd with sacred blood the blushing sand. }

Down sunk the priest : the purple hand of death

Clos'd his dim eye, and fate suppress'd his breath.

Thus toil'd the chiefs, in diff'ring parts engag'd,

In ev'ry quarter fierce Tydides rag'd, 110

Amid the Greek, amid the Trojan train,

Rapt thro' the ranks he thunders o'er the plain ;

Now here, now there, he darts from place to place,

Pours on the rear, or lightens in their face. 115

Thus from high hills the torrents swift and strong,

Deluge whole fields, and sweep the trees along.

Thro' ruin'd moles the rushing wave resounds,

O'erwhelms the bridge, and bursts the lofty bounds ;

The yellow harvests of the ripen'd year, 120

And flatted vineyards, one sad waste appear !

While Jove descends in sluicy sheets of rain,

And all the labours of mankind are vain.

So rag'd Tydides, boundless in his ire,

Drove armies back, and made all Troy retire. 125

With grief the leader of the Lycian band

Saw the wide waste of his destructive hand :

His bended bow against the chief he drew ;

Swift to the mark the thirsty arrow flew,

Whose forky point the hollow breast-plate tore, 130

Deep in his shoulder pierc'd, and drank the gore :

The rushing stream his brazen armour dy'd,

While the proud archer thus exulting cry'd,

Hither



Hither ye Trojans, hither drive your steeds !  
Lo ! by our hand the bravest Grecian bleeds. 135  
Not long the deathful dart he can sustain ;  
Or Phœbus urg'd me to these fields in vain.

So spoke he, boastful ; but the winged dart  
Stopt short of life, and mock'd the shooter's art.  
The wounded chief, behind his car retir'd, 140  
The helping hand of Sthenelus requir'd ;  
Swift from his seat he leap'd upon the ground,  
And tugg'd the weapon from the gushing wound ;  
When thus the king his guardian pow'r addrest,  
The purple current wand'ring o'er his vest. 145

O progeny of Jove ! unconquer'd maid !  
If e'er my godlike fire deserv'd thy aid,  
If e'er I felt thee in the fighting field ;  
Now, Goddess, now, thy sacred succour yield.  
Oh give my lance to reach the Trojan knight, 150  
Whose arrow wounds the chief thou guard'st in fight ;  
And lay the boaster grov'ling on the shore,  
That vaunts these eyes shall view the light no more.

Thus pray'd Tydides, and Minerva heard ;  
His nerves confirm'd, his languid spirits cheer'd ; 155  
He feels each limb with wonted vigour light ;  
His beating bosom claims the promis'd fight.  
Be bold, (she cry'd), in ev'ry combat shine,  
War be thy province, thy protection mine ;  
Rush to the fight, and ev'ry foe controul ; 160  
Wake each paternal virtue in thy soul :  
Strength swells thy boiling breast, infus'd by me,  
And all thy godlike father breathes in thee !  
Yet more ; from mortal mists I purge thy eyes,  
And set to view the warring deities. 165  
These see thou shun, through all th' embattl'd plain,  
Nor rashly strive where human force is vain.  
If Venus mingle in the martial band,  
Her shalt thou wound : so Pallas gives command.

With that, the blue-ey'd virgin wing'd her flight ;  
The hero rush'd impetuous to the fight ; 171  
With tenfold ardour now invades the plain,  
Wild with delay, and more enrag'd by pain.  
As on the fleecy flocks, when hunger calls,  
Amidst the field a brindled lion falls ; 175



If chance some shepherd with a distant dart  
 The savage wound, he rouses at the smart,  
 He foams, he roars ; the shepherd dares not stay,  
 But trembling leaves the scatt'ring flocks a prey ;  
 Heaps fall on heaps ; he bathes with blood the ground,  
 Then leaps victorious o'er the lofty mound. 181

Not with less fury stern Tydides flew ;  
 And two brave leaders at an instant flew :  
 Astynous breathless fell, and by his side  
 His people's pastor, good Hypenor, dy'd ; 185  
 Astynous' breast the deadly lance receives,  
 Hypenor's shoulder his broad faulchion cleaves.

Those slain he left ; and sprung with noble rage,  
 Abas and Polyidus to engage ;  
 Sons of Eurydamas ; who wise and old, 190  
 Could fates foresee, and mystic dreams unfold ;  
 The youths return'd not from the doubtful plain,  
 And the sad father try'd his arts in vain ;  
 No mystic dream could make their fates appear,  
 Though now determin'd by Tydides' spear. 195

Young Xanthus next, and Thoön felt his rage,  
 The joy and hope of Phænops' feeble age ;  
 Vast was his wealth, and these the only heirs  
 Of all his labours, and a life of cares.

Cold death o'ertakes them in their blooming years, 200  
 And leaves the father unavailing tears :  
 To strangers now descends his heapy store,  
 The race forgotten, and the name no more.

Two sons of Priam in one chariot ride,  
 Glitt'ring in arms, and combat side by side. 205  
 As when the lordly lion seeks his food  
 Where grazing heifers range the lonely wood,  
 He leaps amidst them with a furious bound,  
 Bends their strong necks, and tears them to the ground :  
 So from their seats the brother-chiefs are torn, 210  
 Their steeds and chariot to the navy born.

With deep concern divine Æneas view'd  
 The foe prevailing, and his friends pursu'd,  
 Through the thick storm of singing spears he flies,  
 Exploring Pandarus with careful eyes. 215  
 At length he found Lycaon's mighty son ;  
 To whom the chief of Venus' race begun.

Where,



Where, Pandarus, are all thy honours now,  
 Thy winged arrows and unerring bow,  
 Thy matchless skill, thy yet unrival'd fame, 220  
 And boasted glory of the Lycian name?

Oh pierce that mortal ! if we mortal call  
 That wondrous force by which whole armies fall ;  
 Or God incens'd, who quits the distant skies  
 To punish Troy for slighted sacrifice ; 225  
 (Which oh avert from our unhappy state !  
 For what so dreadful as celestial hate ?)

Whoe'er he be, propitiate Jove with pray'r ;  
 If man, destroy ; if God, intreat to spare.

To him the Lycian. Whom your eyes behold, 230  
 If right I judge, is Diomed the bold :

Such courfers whirl him o'er the dusty field,  
 So tow'rs his helmet, and so flames his shield.  
 If 'tis a God, he wears that chief's disguise ;  
 Or if that chief, some guardian of the skies, 235  
 Involv'd in clouds, protects him in the fray,  
 And turns, unseen, the frustrate dart away.

I wing'd an arrow, which not idly fell,  
 The stroke had fix'd him to the gates of hell ;  
 And, but some God, some angry God withstands, 240  
 His fate was due to these unerring hands.

Skill'd in the bow, on foot I fought the war,  
 Nor join'd swift horses to the rapid car.  
 Ten polish'd chariots I possess'd at home,  
 And still they grace Lycaon's princely dome : 245  
 There veil'd in spacious coverlets they stand ;  
 And twice ten courfers wait their lord's command.

The good old warrior bade me trust to these,  
 When first for Troy I sail'd the sacred seas ;  
 In fields, aloft, the whirling car to guide, 250  
 And through the ranks of death triumphant ride.

But vain with youth, and yet to thrift inclin'd,  
 I heard his counsels with unheeding mind,  
 And thought the steeds (your large supplies unknown)  
 Might fail of forage in the straiten'd town : 255  
 So took my bow and pointed darts in hand,  
 And left the chariots in my native land.

Too late, O friend ! my rashness I deplore ;  
 These shafts, once fatal, carry death no more.



Tydeus' and Atreus' sons their points have found, 260  
And undissembled gore pursu'd the wound.

In vain they bled : this unavailing bow  
Serves, not to slaughter, but provoke the foe.

In evil hour these bended horns I strung,  
And seiz'd the quiver where it idly hung. 265

Curs'd be the fate that sent me to the field,  
Without a warrior's arms, the spear and shield !

If e'er with life I quit the Trojan plain,  
If e'er I see my spouse and fire again,

This bow, unfaithful to my glorious aims, 270  
Broke by my hand, shall feed the blazing flames.

To whom the leader of the Dardan race :  
Be calm, nor Phoebus' honour'd gift disgrace.

The distant dart be prais'd, though here we need  
The rushing chariot, and the bounding steed. 275

Against yon hero let us bend our course,  
And, hand to hand, encounter force with force.

Now mount my seat, and from the chariot's height  
Observe my father's steeds, renown'd in fight ;

Practis'd alike to turn, to stop, to chace, 280  
To dare the shock, or urge the rapid race :

Secure with these, through fighting fields we go,  
Or safe to Troy, if Jove assist the foe.

Haste, seize the whip, and snatch the guiding rein :  
The warrior's fury let this arm sustain ; 285

Or, if to combat thy bold heart incline,  
Take thou the spear, the chariot's care be mine.

O prince ! (Lycaon's valiant son reply'd),  
As thine the steeds, be thine the task to guide.

The horses practis'd to their lord's command, 290  
Shall bear the rein, and answer to thy hand.

But if unhappy, we desert the fight,  
Thy voice alone can animate their flight :

Else shall our fates be number'd with the dead,  
And these, the victor's prize, in triumph led. 295

Thine be the guidance then : with spear and shield  
Myself will charge this terror of the field.

And now both heroes mount the glitt'ring car ;  
The bounding coursers rush amidst the war.

Their fierce approach bold Sthenelus espy'd, 300  
Who thus, alarm'd, to great Tydides cry'd.



O friend! two chiefs of force immense I see,  
 Dreadful they come, and bend their rage on thee:  
 Lo the brave heir of old Lycaon's line,  
 And great Æneas, sprung from race divine! 305  
 Enough is giv'n to fame. Ascend thy car;  
 And save a life, the bulwark of our war.

At this the hero cast a gloomy look,  
 Fix'd on the chief with scorn; and thus he spoke.

Me dost thou bid to shun the coming fight? 310  
 Me wouldst thou move to base, inglorious flight?  
 Know, 'tis not honest in my soul to fear,  
 Nor was Tydides born to tremble here.

I hate the cumbrous chariot's slow advance,  
 And the long distance of the flying lance; 315  
 But while my nerves are strong, my force entire,  
 Thus front the foe, and emulate my fire.

Nor shall yon steeds that fierce to fight convey  
 Those threat'ning heroes, bear them both away;  
 One chief at least beneath this arm shall die; 320  
 So Pallas tells me, and forbids to fly.

But if she dooms, and if no God withstand,  
 That both shall fall by one victorious hand;  
 Then heed my words: my horses here detain,  
 Fix'd to the chariot by the straiten'd rein: 325

Swift to Æneas' empty seat proceed,  
 And seize the couriers of æthereal breed:  
 The race of those, which once the thund'ring God  
 For ravish'd Ganymede on Tros bestow'd,  
 The best that e'er on earth's broad surface run, 330  
 Beneath the rising or the setting sun.

Hence great Anchises stole a breed, unknown  
 By mortal mares, from fierce Laomedon:  
 Four of this race his ample stalls contain,  
 And two transport Æneas o'er the plain. 335

These, were the rich immortal prize our own,  
 Through the wide world should make our glory known.

Thus while they spoke, the foe came furious on,  
 And stern Lycaon's warlike race begun.

Prince, thou art met. Though late in vain assail'd,  
 The spear may enter where the arrow fail'd. 341



He said, then shook the pond'rous lance, and flung;  
 On his broad shield the sounding weapon rung,  
 Pierc'd the tough orb, and in his cuirass hung.  
 He bleeds! the pride of Greece! (the boaster cries);  
 Our triumph now, the mighty warrior lies! 345

Mistaken vaunter! Diomed reply'd;  
 Thy dart has err'd, and now my spear be try'd;  
 Ye 'scape not both; one, headlong from his car,  
 With hostile blood shall glut the God of war. 350

He spoke, and rising hurl'd his forceful dart,  
 Which driv'n by Pallas, pierc'd a vital part;  
 Full in his face it enter'd, and betwixt  
 The nose and eye-ball the proud Lycian fixt;  
 Crash'd all his jaws, and cleft the tongue within, 355  
 Till the bright point look'd out beneath the chin.  
 Headlong he falls, his helmet knocks the ground;  
 Earth groans beneath him, and his arms resound;  
 The starting coursers tremble with affright;  
 The soul, indignant, seeks the realms of night. 360

To guard his slaughter'd friend, Æneas flies,  
 His spear extending where the carcass lies;  
 Watchful he wheels, protects it ev'ry way,  
 As the grim lion stalks around his prey,  
 O'er the fall'n trunk his ample shield display'd, 365  
 He hides the hero with his mighty shade,  
 And threats aloud: the Greeks with longing eyes  
 Behold at distance, but forbear the prize.  
 Then fierce Tydides stoops; and from the fields  
 Heav'd with vast force, a rocky fragment wields. 370  
 Not two strong men th' enormous weight could raise,  
 Such men as live in these degen'rate days.

He swung it round; and gath'ring strength to throw,  
 Discharg'd the pond'rous ruin at the foe.  
 Where to the hip th' inserted thigh unites, 375  
 Full on the bone the pointed marble lights;  
 Through both the tendons broke the rugged stone,  
 And stripp'd the skin, and crack'd the solid bone.  
 Sunk on his knees, and stagg'ring with his pains,  
 His falling bulk his bended arm sustains; 380

Lost in a dizzy mist the warrior lies;  
 A sudden cloud comes swimming o'er his eyes.

There



There the brave chief who mighty numbers sway'd,  
Oppress'd had sunk to death's eternal shade ;  
But heav'nly Venus, mindful of the love 385  
She bore Anchises in th' Idean grove,  
His danger views with anguish and despair,  
And guards her offspring with a mother's care.  
About her much lov'd son her arm she throws,  
Her arms whose whiteness match the falling snows. 390  
Screen'd from the foes behind her shining veil,  
The swords wave harmless, and the jav'ins fail :  
Safe through the rushing horse, and feather'd flight  
Of sounding shafts she bears him from the fight.

Nor Sthenelus, with unassisting hands, 395  
Remain'd unheedful of his lord's commands :  
His panting steeds, remov'd from out the war,  
He fix'd with straiten'd traces to the car.  
Next rushing to the Dardan spoil, detains  
The heav'nly coursers with the flowing man : 400  
These, in proud triumph to the fleet convey'd,  
No longer now a Trojan lord obey'd.  
That charge to bold Deipylus he gave,  
(Whom most he lov'd, as brave men love the brave) ;  
Then, mounting on his car, resum'd the rein, 405  
And follow'd where Tydides swept the plain.

Meanwhile (his conquest ravish'd from his eyes)  
The raging chief in chace of Venus flies :  
No goddess she commission'd to the field,  
Like Pallas dreadful with her sable shield, 410  
Or fierce Bellona thund'ring at the wall,  
While flames ascend, and mighty ruins fall ;  
He knew soft combats suit the tender dame,  
New to the field, and still a foe to fame.  
Thro' breaking ranks his furious course he bends, 415  
And at the Goddess his broad lance extends ;  
Thro' her bright veil the daring weapon drove,  
Th' ambrosial veil, which all the graces wove ;  
Her snowy hand the razing steel profan'd,  
And the transparent skin with crimson stain'd. 420  
From the clear vein a stream immortal flow'd,  
Such stream as issues from a wounded God :  
Pure emanation ! uncorrupted flood ;  
Unlike our gross, diseas'd, terrestrial blood :

(For



(For not the bread of man their life sustains, 425  
 Nor wine's inflaming juice supplies their veins.)  
 With tender shrieks the Goddesses fill'd the place,  
 And dropt her offspring from her weak embrace.  
 Him Phœbus took: he casts a cloud around,  
 The fainting chief, and wards the mortal wound. 430

Then with a voice that shook the vaulted skies,  
 The king insults the Goddesses as she flies.  
 Ill with Jove's daughter bloody fights agree,  
 The field of combat is no scene for thee:  
 Go, let thy own soft sex employ thy care, 435  
 Go lull the coward, or delude the fair.  
 Taught by this stroke, renounce the war's alarms,  
 And learn to tremble at the name of arms.

Tydides thus. The Goddesses seiz'd with dread,  
 Confus'd, distracted, from the conflict fled. 440  
 To aid her, swift the winged Iris flew,  
 Wrapt in a mist above the warring crew.  
 The queen of love with faded charms she found,  
 Pale was her cheek, and livid look'd the wound.  
 To Mars, who sat remote, they bent their way; 445  
 Far on the left, with clouds involv'd he lay;  
 Beside him stood his lance, distain'd with gore,  
 And, rein'd with gold, his foaming steeds before.  
 Low at his knee, she begg'd, with streaming eyes,  
 Her brother's car, to mount the distant skies, 450  
 And shew'd the wound by fierce Tydides giv'n,  
 A mortal man, who dares encounter heav'n.  
 Stern Mars attentive hears the queen complain,  
 And to her hand commits the golden rein;  
 She mounts the seat, oppress'd with silent wo, 455  
 Driv'n by the Goddesses of the painted bow.  
 The lash resounds, the rapid chariot flies,  
 And in a moment scales the lofty skies.  
 There stopp'd the car, and there the coursers stood,  
 Fed by fair Iris with ambrosial food. 460  
 Before her mother, Love's bright queen appears,  
 O'erwhelm'd with anguish and dissolv'd in tears;  
 She rais'd her in her arms, beheld her bleed,  
 And ask'd what God had wrought this guilty deed?

Then she: This insult from no God I found, 465  
 An impious mortal gave the daring wound!

Behold.



Behold the deed of haughty Diomed !  
 'Twas in the son's defence the mother bled.  
 The war with Troy no more the Grecians wage ;  
 But with the Gods (th' immortal Gods) engage. 470

Dione then : Thy wrongs with patience bear,  
 And share those griefs inferior pow'rs must share :  
 Unnumber'd woes mankind from us sustain,  
 And men with woes afflict the Gods again.  
 The mighty Mars, in mortal fetters bound, 475  
 And lodg'd in brazen dungeons under ground,  
 Full thirteen moons, imprison'd, roar'd in vain ;  
 Otus and Ephialtes held the chain :  
 Perhaps had perish'd ; had not Hermes' care  
 Restor'd the groaning God to upper air. 480

Great Juno's self has borne her weight of pain,  
 Th' imperial partner of the heav'nly reign ;  
 Amphitryon's son infix'd the deadly dart,  
 And fill'd with anguish her immortal heart.  
 Ev'n hell's grim king Alcides' power confest, 485  
 The shaft found entrance in his iron breast ;  
 To Jove's high palace for a cure he fled,  
 Pierc'd in his own dominions of the dead ;  
 Where Pæon, sprinkling heav'nly balm around,  
 Assuag'd the glowing pangs, and clos'd the wound. 490  
 Rash, impious man ! to stain the blest abodes,  
 And drench his arrows in the blood of Gods !

But thou, (tho' Pallas urg'd thy frantic deed)  
 Whose spear ill-fated makes a Goddess bleed,  
 Know thou, whoe'er with heav'nly pow'r contends 495  
 Short is his date, and soon his glory ends ;  
 From fields of death when late he shall retire,  
 No infant on his knees shall call him sire.  
 Strong as thou art, some God may yet be found,  
 To stretch thee pale and gasping on the ground ; 500  
 Thy distant wife, Ægiale the fair,  
 Starting from sleep with a distracted air,  
 Shall rouse thy slaves, and her lost lord deplore,  
 The brave, the great, the glorious now no more !

This said, she wip'd from Venus' wounded palm 500  
 The sacred ichor, and infus'd the balm.  
 Juno and Pallas with a smile survey'd,  
 And thus to Jove began the blue-ey'd maid :

Permit



Permit thy daughter, gracious Jove, to tell  
 How this mischance the Cyprian queen befel : 510  
 As late she try'd with passion to inflame  
 The tender bosom of a Grecian dame,  
 Allur'd the fair, with moving thoughts of joy,  
 To quit her country for some youth of Troy ;  
 The clasping zone, with golden buckles bound, 515  
 Raz'd her soft hand with this lamented wound.

The fire of Gods and men superior smil'd,  
 And, calling Venus, thus address'd his child :  
 Not these, O daughter, are thy proper cares,  
 Thee milder arts besit and softer wars ; 520  
 Sweet smiles are thine, and kind endearing charms,  
 To Mars and Pallas leave the deeds of arms.

Thus they in heav'n : while on the plain below  
 The fierce Tydides charg'd his Dardan foe,  
 Flush'd with celestial blood pursu'd his way, 525  
 And, fearless, dar'd the threat'ning God of day ;  
 Already in his hopes he saw him kill'd,  
 Tho' screen'd behind Appollo's mighty shield.  
 Thrice, rushing furious, at the chief he strook ;  
 His blazing buckler thrice Appollo shook : 530  
 He try'd the fourth : when breaking from the cloud,  
 A more than mortal voice was heard aloud :

O son of Tydeus, cease ! be wise, and see  
 How vast the diff'rence of the Gods and thee ;  
 Distance immense ; between the pow'rs that shine, 535  
 Above, eternal, deathless, and divine,  
 And mortal man ! A wretch of humble birth,  
 A short liv'd reptile in the dust of earth.

So spoke the God who darts celestial fires ;  
 He dreads his fury, and some steps retires. 540  
 Then Phœbus bore the chief of Venus' race  
 To Troy's high fane, and to his holy place ;  
 Latona there and Phœbe heal'd the wound,  
 With vigour arm'd him, and with glory crown'd.  
 This done, the patron of the silver bow 545  
 A phantom rais'd, the same in shape and show  
 With great Æneas ; such the form he bore,  
 And such in fight the radiant arms he wore.  
 Around the spectre bloody wars are wag'd,  
 And Greece and Troy with clashing shields engag'd. 550

Mean-time



Mean-time on Ilion's tow'r Apollo stood,  
And calling Mars, thus urg'd the raging God.

Stern pow'r of arms, by whom the mighty fall,  
Who bath'ft in blood, and shak'ft th' embattled wall,  
Rise in thy wrath ! to hell's abhor'd abodes 555  
Dispatch yon Greek, and vindicate the Gods.

First rosy Venus felt his brutal rage ;  
Me next he charg'd, and dares all heav'n engage :  
The wretch would brave high heav'ns, immortal fire,  
His triple thunder and his bolts of fire. 560

The God of battle issues on the plain,  
Stirs all the ranks, and fires the Trojan train ;  
In form like Acamas, the Thracian guide,  
In rage to Troy's retiring chiefs he cry'd :

How long ye sons of Priam ! will ye fly, 565  
And unreveng'd see Priam's people die ?  
Still unresisted shall the foe destroy,

And stretch the slaughter to the gates of Troy ?  
Lo brave Æneas sinks beneath his wound,  
Not godlike Hector more in arms renown'd : 570

Haste all, and take the gen'rous warrior's part.  
He said ; new courage swell'd each hero's heart.  
Sarpedon first his ardent soul express'd,  
And, turn'd to Hector, these bold words address'd.

Say, chief, is all thy ancient valour lost, 575  
Where are thy threats, and where thy glorious boast,  
That propt alone by Priam's race should stand  
Troy's sacred walls, nor need a foreign hand ?  
Now, now thy country calls her wanted friends,  
And the proud vaunt in just derision ends. 580

Remote they stand, while alien troops engage,  
Like trembling hounds before the lion's rage.  
Far distant hence I held my wide command,  
Where foaming Xanthus laves the Lycian land,  
With ample wealth (the wish of mortals) blest, 585  
A beauteous wife, and infant at her breast ;

With those I left whatever dear could be ;  
Greece, if she conquers, nothing wins from me.  
Yet first in fight my Lycian bands I cheer,  
And long to meet this mighty man ye fear ; 590  
While Hector idle stands, nor bids the brave  
Their wives, their infants, and their altars save.

Haste



Haste, warrior, haste ! preserve thy threaten'd state ;  
 Or one vast burst of all-involving fate  
 Full o'er your tow'rs shall fall, and sweep away 595  
 Sons, fires, and wives, an undistinguish'd prey.  
 Rouse all thy Trojans, urge thy aids to fight ;  
 These claim thy thoughts by day, thy watch by night ;  
 With force incessant the brave Greeks oppose ;  
 Such cares thy friends deserve, and such thy foes. 600

Stung to the heart the gen'rous Hector hears,  
 But just reproof with decent silence bears.  
 From his proud car the prince impetuous springs,  
 On earth he leaps ; his brazen armour rings.  
 Two shining spears are brandish'd in his hands ; 605  
 Thus arm'd, he animates his drooping bands,  
 Revives their ardour, turns their steps from flight,  
 And wakes anew the dying flames of fight.  
 They turn, they stand : the Greeks their fury dare,  
 Condense their pow'rs and wait the growing war. 610

As when, on Ceres' sacred floor, the swain  
 Spreads the wide fan to clear the golden grain,  
 And the light chaff, before the breezes borne,  
 Ascends in clouds from off the heapy corn ;  
 The grey dust, rising with collected winds, 615  
 Drives o'er the barn, and whitens all the binds :  
 So white with dust the Grecian host appears,  
 From trampling steeds, and thund'ring charioteers ;  
 The dusky clouds from labour'd earth arise,  
 And roll in smoking volumes to the skies. 620

Mars hovers o'er them with his sable shield,  
 And adds new horrors to the darken'd field :  
 Pleas'd with his charge, and ardent to fulfil,  
 In Troy's defence, Apollo's heav'nly will ;  
 Soon as from fight the blue-ey'd maid retires, 625  
 Each Trojan bosom with new warmth he fires.

And now the God, from forth his sacred fane,  
 Produc'd Æneas to the shouting train ;  
 Alive, unharm'd, with all his peers around,  
 Erect he stood, and vig'rous from his wound : 630  
 Inquiries none they made ; the dreadful day  
 No pause of words admits, no dull delay ;  
 Fierce discord storms, Apollo loud exclaims,  
 Fame calls, Mars thunders, and the field's in flames.



Stern Diomed with either Ajax stood, 635  
And great Ulysses, bath'd in hostile blood.  
Embodied close, the lab'ring Grecian train  
The fiercest shock of charging hosts sustain.  
Unmov'd and silent, the whole war they wait,  
Serenely dreadful, and as fix'd as fate. 640  
So when th' embattled clouds in dark array,  
Along the skies their gloomy lines display ;  
When now the north his boist'rous rage has spent,  
And peaceful sleeps the liquid element ;  
The low-hung vapours, motionless and still, 645  
Rest on the summits of the shaded hill ;  
Till the mists scatters as the winds arise,  
Dispers'd and broken through the ruffled skies.

Nor was the gen'ral wanting to his train,  
From troop to troop he toils through all the plain. 650  
Ye Greeks, be men ! the charge of battle bear ;  
Your brave associates, and yourselves revere !  
Let glorious acts more glorious acts inspire !  
And catch from breast to breast the noble fire !  
On valour's side the odds of combat lie, 655  
The brave live glorious, or lamented die.  
The wretch who trembles in the field of fame,  
Meets death, and worse than death, eternal shame.

These words he seconds with his flying lance,  
To meet whose point was strong Deicoon's chance ; 660  
Æneas' friend, and in his native place  
Honour'd and lov'd like Priam's royal race ;  
Long had he fought the foremost in the field,  
But now the monarch's lance transpierc'd his shield :  
His shield too weak the furious dart to stay, 665  
Thro' his broad belt the weapon forc'd its way ;  
The grisly wound dismiss'd his soul to hell,  
His arms around him rattl'd as he fell.

Then fierce Æneas brandishing his blade,  
In dust Orsilochns and Crethon laid, 670  
Whose sire Diöcleus, wealthy, brave, and great,  
In well-built Pheræ held his lofty seat :  
Sprung from Alpheüs' plenteous stream ! that yields  
Increase of harvests to the Pylian fields.  
He got Orsilochns, Diöcleus he, 675  
And these descended in the third degree.

Too



Too early expert in the martial toil,  
 In fable ships they left their native soil,  
 T' avenge Atrides ; now untimely slain,  
 They fell with glory on the Phrygian plain. 680

So two young mountain-lions, nurs'd with blood,  
 In deep recesses of the gloomy wood,  
 Rush fearless to the plains, and uncontroll'd  
 Depopulate the stalls and waste the fold ;  
 Till pierc'd at distance from their native den, 685  
 O'erpower'd they fall beneath the force of men.

Prostrate on earth their beauteous bodies lay,  
 Like mountain-firs, as tall and straight as they.  
 Great Menelaus views with pitying eyes,  
 Lifts his bright lance, and at the victor flies ; 690  
 Mars urg'd him on, yet, ruthless in his hate,  
 The God but urg'd him to provoke his fate.

He thus advancing, Nestor's valiant son  
 Shakes for his danger, and neglects his own ;  
 Struck with the thought, should Helen's lord be slain,  
 And all his country's glorious labours vain, 696

Already met, the threat'ning heroes stand ;  
 The spears already tremble in their hand :  
 In rush'd Antilochus, his aid to bring,  
 And fall or conquer by the Spartan king. 700

These seen, the Dardan backward turn'd his course,  
 Brave as he was, and shunn'd unequal force.  
 The breathless bodies to the Greeks they drew,  
 Then mix in combat, and their toils renew.

First Pylæmenes, great in battle, bled, 705  
 Who sheath'd in brass the Paphlagonians led.  
 Atrides mark'd him where sublime he stood ;  
 Fix'd in his throat, the jav'lin drank his blood.

The faithful Mydon, as he turn'd from fight  
 His flying couriers, sunk to endless night :  
 A broken rock by Nestor's son was thrown ; 710  
 His bended arm receiv'd the falling stone,

From his numb'd hand the iv'ry studded reins,  
 Dropt in the dust, are trail'd along the plains :  
 Meanwhile his temples feel a deadly wound ; 715

He groans in death, and pond'rous sinks to ground :  
 Deep drove his helmet in the sands, and there  
 The head stood fix'd, the quiv'ring legs in air,

Till



Till trampled flat beneath the courser's feet;  
 The youthful victor mounts his empty seat,  
 And bears the prize in triumph to the fleet.

720

Great Hector saw, and raging at the view,  
 Pours on the Greeks; the Trojan troops pursue:  
 He fires his host with animating cries,  
 And brings along the furies of the skies.

725

Mars, stern destroyer! and Bellona dread,  
 Flame in the front, and thunder at their head:  
 This swells the tumult and the rage of fight;  
 That shakes a spear, that casts a dreadful light.

Where Hector march'd, the God of battles shin'd, 730  
 Now storm'd before him, and now rag'd behind.

Tydides paus'd amidst his full career;  
 Then first the hero's manly breast knew fear.

As when some simple swain his cot forfakes,  
 And wide thro' fens an unknown journey takes; 735  
 If chance a swelling brook his passage stay,

And foam impervious cross the wand'rer's way,  
 Confus'd he stops, a length of country past,  
 Eyes the rough waves, and tir'd, returns at last.

Amaz'd no less the great Tydides stands; 740  
 He stay'd, and turning, thus address'd his bands:

No wonder, Greeks! that all to Hector yield,  
 Secure of fav'ring Gods he takes the field;

His strokes they second, and avert our spears:  
 Behold where Mars in mortal arms appears? 745

Retire then, warriors; but sedate and slow;  
 Retire, but with your faces to the foe.

Trust not too much your unavailing might;  
 'Tis not with Troy, but with the Gods ye fight.

Now near the Greeks the black battalions drew; 750  
 And first two leaders valiant Hector slew.

His force Anchialus and Mnesthes found,  
 In ev'ry art of glorious war renown'd;

In the same car the chiefs to combat ride,  
 And fought united, and united dy'd. 755

Struck at the sight, the mighty Ajax glows  
 With thirst of vengeance, and assaults the foes.

His massy spear with matchless fury sent,  
 Thro' Amphius' belt, and heaving belly went:



Amphius Apæsus' happy soil possess'd, 760  
With herds abounding, and with treasure blest ;  
But Fate resistless from his country led  
The chief, to perish at his people's head.  
Shook with his fall his brazen armour rung,  
And fierce, to seize it, conqu'ring Ajax sprung ; 765  
Around his head an iron tempest rain'd ;  
A wood of spears his ample shield sustain'd ;  
Beneath one foot the yet-warm corpse he prest,  
And drew his jav'lin from the bleeding breast :  
He could no more, the show'ring darts deny'd 770  
To spoil his glitt'ring arms, and plummy pride.  
Now foes on foes came pouring on the fields,  
With bristling lances, and compacted shields ;  
Till in the steely circle straiten'd round,  
Forc'd he gives way, and sternly quits the ground. 775

While thus they strive, Tlepolemus the great,  
Urg'd by the force of unresisted fate,  
Burns with desire Sarpedon's strength to prove ;  
Alcides' offspring meets the son of Jove.  
Sheath'd in bright arms each adverse chief came on, 780  
Jove's great descendent, and his greater son.  
Prepar'd for combat, ere the lance he tost,  
The daring Rhodian vents his haughty boast.

What brings this Lycian counsellor so far,  
To tremble at our arms, not mix in war ? 785  
Know thy vain self, nor let their flatt'ry move,  
Who style thee son of cloud-compelling Jove.  
How far unlike those chiefs of race divine,  
How vast the diff'rence of their deeds and thine ?  
Jove got such heroes as my sire, whose soul 790  
No fear could daunt, nor earth nor hell controul.  
Troy felt his arm, and yon proud ramparts stand  
Rais'd on the ruins of his vengeful hand ;  
With six small ships, and but a slender train,  
He left the town a wide deserted plain. 795  
But what art thou ! who deedless look'st around,  
While unreveng'd thy Lycians bite the ground :  
Small aid to Troy thy feeble force can be ;  
But wert thou greater, thou must yield to me.  
Pierc'd by my spear to endless darkness go ! 800  
I make this present to the shades below.

The



The son of Hercules, the Rhodian guide,  
Thus haughty spoke. The Lycian king reply'd:

Thy fire, O prince! o'erturn'd the Trojan state,  
Whose perjur'd monarch well deserv'd his fate; 805

Those heav'nly steeds the hero fought so far,

False he detain'd, the just reward of war:

Nor so content, the gen'rous chief defy'd, —

With base reproaches and unmanly pride:

But you, unworthy the high race you boast, 810

Shall raise my glory when thy own is lost:

Now meet thy fate, and by Sarpedon slain,

Add one more ghost to Pluto's gloomy reign.

He said: both jav'lines at an instant flew;

Both struck, both wounded, but Sarpedon's flew: 815

Full in the boaster's neck the weapon stood,

Transfix'd his throat, and drank the vital blood;

The soul disdainful seeks the caves of night,

And his seal'd eyes for ever lose the light.

Yet not in vain, Tlepolemus, was thrown 820

Thy angry lance; which piercing to the bone

Sarpedon's thigh, had robb'd the chief of breath;

But Jove was present, and forbade the death.

Borne from the conflict by his Lycian throng,

The wounded hero dragg'd the lance along. 825

(His friends, each busy'd in his sev'ral part,

Through haste, or danger, had not drawn the dart.)

The Greeks with slain Tlepolemus retir'd;

Whose fall Ulysses view'd, with fury fir'd;

Doubtful if great Jove's son he should pursue, 830

Or pour his vengeance on the Lycian crew.

But heav'n and fate the first design withstand,

Nor this great death must grace Ulysses' hand.

Minerva drives him on the Lycian train;

Alastor, Cromius, Halius, strow'd the plain; 835

Alcander, Prytanis, Noëmon fell:

And numbers more his sword had sent to hell,

But Hector saw; and furious at the sight,

Rush'd terrible amidst the ranks of fight:

With joy Sarpedon view'd the wish'd relief, 840

And, faint, lamenting, thus implor'd the chief:

Oh suffer not the foe to bear away

My helpless corpse, an unassisted prey;



If I, unblest'd, must see my son no more,  
 My much lov'd comfort, and my native shore, 845  
 Yet let me die in Ilion's sacred wall;  
 Troy, in whose cause I fell, shall mourn my fall.

He said, nor Hector to the chief replies,  
 But shakes his plume, and fierce to combat flies;  
 Swift as a whirlwind, drives the scatt'ring foes, 850  
 And dyes the ground with purple as he goes.

Beneath a beech, Jove's consecrated shade,  
 His mournful friends divine Sarpedon laid:  
 Brave Pelagon, his fav'rite chief, was nigh,  
 Who wrench'd the jav'lin from his finewy thigh. 855  
 The fainting soul stood ready wing'd for flight,  
 And o'er his eye-balls swam the shades of night;  
 But Boreas rising fresh, with gentle breath,  
 Recall'd his spirit from the gates of death.

The gen'rous Greeks recede with tardy pace, 860  
 Tho' Mars and Hector thunder in their face;  
 None turn their backs to mean ignoble flight,  
 Slow they retreat, and ev'n retreating fight.  
 Who first, who last, by Mars and Hector's hand,  
 Stretch'd in their blood, lay gasping on the sand? 865  
 Teuthras the great, Orestes the renown'd  
 For manag'd steeds, and Trechus press'd the ground;  
 Next Oenomaus, and Oenops' offspring dy'd;  
 Oresbius last fell groaning at their side;  
 Oresbius, in his painted mitre gay, 870  
 In fat Bœotia held his wealthy sway,  
 Where lakes surround low Hyle's wat'ry plain;  
 A prince and people studious of their gain.

The carnage, Juno, from the skies survey'd,  
 And, touch'd with grief, bespoke the blue-ey'd maid:  
 Oh fight accurs'd! shall faithless Troy prevail, 876  
 And shall our promise to our people fail!  
 How vain the word to Menelaus giv'n,  
 By Jove's great daughter and the queen of heav'n,  
 Beneath his arms that Priam's tow'rs should fall; 880  
 If warring Gods for ever guard the wall?  
 Mars, red with slaughter, aids our hated foes:  
 Haste, let us arm, and force with force oppose!

She spoke: Minerva burns to meet the war:  
 And now heav'n's empress calls her blazing car. 885

At



At her command rush forth the steeds divine ;  
 Rich with immortal gold their trappings shine.  
 Bright Hebe waits ; by Hebe, ever young,  
 The whirling wheels are to the chariot hung.  
 On the bright axle turns the bidden wheel. 890  
 Of sounding brass ; the polish'd axle steel.  
 Eight brazen spokes in radiant order flame ;  
 The circles gold, of uncorrupted frame,  
 Such as the heav'ns produce ; and round the gold,  
 Two brazen rings of work divine were roll'd. 895  
 The bossy naves of solid silver shone ;  
 Braces of gold suspend the moving throne :  
 The car, behind, an arching figure bore ;  
 The bending concave form'd an arch before.  
 Silver the beam, th' extended yoke was gold, 900  
 And golden reins th' immortal courfers hold.  
 Herself, impatient to the ready car  
 The courfers joins, and breathes revenge and war.  
 Pallas disrobes ; her radiant veil unty'd,  
 With flow'rs adorn'd, with art diversify'd, 905  
 (The labour'd veil her heav'nly fingers wove),  
 Flows on the pavement of the court of Jove.  
 Now heav'ns dread arms her mighty limbs invest,  
 Jove's cuirass blazes on her ample breast ;  
 Deck'd in sad triumph for the mournful field, 910  
 O'er her broad shoulders hangs his horrid shield,  
 Dire, black, tremendous ! round the margin roll'd,  
 A fringe of serpents hissing guards the gold :  
 Here all the terrors of grim war appear,  
 Here rages Force, here trembles Flight and Fear, 915  
 Here storm'd Contention, and here Fury frown'd,  
 And the dire orb portentous Gorgon crown'd.  
 The massy golden helm she next assumes,  
 That dreadful nodes with four o'ershading plumes ;  
 So vast, the broad circumference contains 920  
 A hundred armies on a hundred plains.  
 The Goddess thus th' imperial car ascends ;  
 Shook by her arm the mighty jav'lin bends,  
 Pond'rous and huge ; that when her fury burns,  
 Proud tyrants humbles, and whole hosts o'erturns. 925  
 Swift at the scourge th' ethereal courfers fly,  
 While the smooth chariot cuts the liquid sky.

Heav'n's



Heav'n's gates spontaneous open to the pow'rs,  
Heav'n's golden gates, kept by the winged hours;  
Commission'd in alternate watch they stand, 930  
The sun's bright portals and the skies command,  
Involve in clouds th' eternal gates of day,  
Or the dark barrier roll with ease away.  
The founding hinges ring : on either side  
The gloomy volumes, pierc'd with light divide. 935.

The chariot mounts, where deep in ambient skies  
Confus'd Olympus' hundred heads arise ;  
Where far apart the Thund'rer fills his throne,  
O'er all the Gods superior and alone.  
There with her snowy hand the queen restrains. 940

The fiery steeds, and thus to Jove complains :  
O fire ! can no resentment touch thy soul ?  
Can Mars rebel, and does no thunder roll !  
What lawless rage on yon forbidden plain,  
What rash destruction ! and what heroes slain ! 945  
Venus, and Phœbus with the dreadful bow,  
Smile on the slaughter, and enjoy my wo.

Mad, furious pow'r, whose unrelenting mind  
No God can govern, and no justice bind;  
Say, mighty father ! shall we scourge his pride, 950  
And drive from sight th' impetuous homicide ?

To whom assenting, thus the Thund'rer said :  
Go ! and the great Minerva be thy aid.  
To tame the monster-god, Minerva knows,  
And oft afflicts his brutal breast with woes. 955

He said ; Saturnia, ardent to obey,  
Lash'd her white steeds along th' aëreal way.  
Swift down the steep of heav'n the chariot rolls,  
Between th' expanded earth and starry poles.  
Far as a shepherd, from some point on high, 960  
O'er the wide main extends his boundless eye ;  
Thro' such a space of air, with thund'ring sound,  
At ev'ry leap th' immortal coursers bound :  
Troy now they reach'd, and touch'd those banks divine  
Where silver Simois and Scamander join. 965  
There Juno stopp'd, and (her fair steeds unloos'd)  
Of air condens'd a vapour circumfus'd :  
For these, impregnate with celestial dew  
On Simois' brink ambrosial herbage grew.

Thence



Thence to relieve the fainting Argive throng, 970  
Smooth as the sailing doves, they glide along.

The best and bravest of the Grecian band  
(A warlike circle) round Tydides stand :  
Such was their look as lions bath'd in blood,  
Or foaming boars, the terror of the wood. 975

Heav'n's empress mingles with the mortal croud,  
And shouts, in Stentor's sounding voice, aloud :  
Stentor the strong, endu'd with brazen lungs,  
Whose throat surpass'd the force of fifty tongues.

Inglorious Argives ! to your race a shame, 980  
And only men in figure and in name !  
Once from the walls your tim'rous foes engag'd,  
While fierce in war divine Achilles rag'd ;  
Now issuing fearless they possess the plain,  
Now win the shores, and scarce the seas remain. 985

Her speech new fury to their hearts convey'd :  
While near Tydides stood th' Athenian maid ;  
The king beside his panting steeds she found,  
O'erspent with toil, reposing on the ground :  
To cool his glowing wound he sat apart, 990  
(The wound inflicted by the Lycian dart) ;  
Large drops of sweat from all his limbs descend,  
Beneath his pond'rous shield his sinews bend,  
Whose ample belt that o'er his shoulder lay,  
He eas'd ; and wash'd the clotted gore away. 995

The Goddess leaning o'er the bending yoke,  
Beside his couriers, thus her silence broke :  
Degen'rate prince ! and not of Tydeus' kind,  
Whose little body lodg'd a mighty mind ;  
Foremost he press'd in glorious toils to share, 1000  
And scarce refrain'd when I forbade the war.  
Alone, unguarded, once he dar'd to go  
And feast, incircled by the Theban foe ;  
There brav'd, and vanquish'd, many a hardy knight ;  
Such nerves I gave him, and such force in fight, 1005  
Thou too, no less has been my constant care ;  
Thy hands I arm'd, and sent thee forth to war :  
But thee, or fear deters, or sloth detains ;  
No drop of all thy father warms thy veins.

The chief thus answer'd mild : Immortal maid ! 1010  
I own thy presence, and confess thy aid.



Not fear, thou know'st, with-holds me from the plains,  
 Nor sloth hath seiz'd me, but thy word restrains :  
 From warring Gods thou bad'st me turn my spear,  
 And Venus only found resistance here. 1015

Hence, Goddess ! heedful of thy high commands,  
 Loath I gave way, and warn'd our Argive bands ;  
 For Mars, the homicide, these eyes beheld,  
 With slaughter red, and raging round the field.

Then thus Minerva : Brave Tydides, hear ! 1020  
 Not Mars himself, nor ought immortal fear :

Full on the God impel thy foaming horse :  
 Pallas commands, and Pallas lends the force.  
 Rash, furious, blind, from these to those he flies,  
 And ev'ry side of wav'ring combat tries ; 1025  
 Large promise makes, and breaks the promise made ;  
 Now gives the Grecians, now the Trojans aid.

She said, and to the steeds approaching near,  
 Drew from his seat the martial charioteer.  
 The vig'rous pow'r the trembling car ascends, 1030  
 Fierce for revenge ; and Diomed attends.

The groaning axle bent beneath the load ;  
 So great a hero, and so great a God.  
 She snatch'd the reins, she lash'd with all her force,  
 And full on Mars impell'd the foaming horse : 1035  
 But first, to hide her heav'nly visage, spread  
 Black Orcus' helmet o'er her radiant head.

Just then gigantic Periphas lay slain,  
 The strongest warrior of th' Ætolian train ;  
 The God who slew him, leaves his prostrate prize 1040  
 Stretch'd where he fell, and at Tydides flies.

Now rushing fierce, in equal arms appear,  
 The daring Greek ; the dreadful God of war !  
 Full at the chief, above his courser's head,  
 From Mars's arm, th' enormous weapon fled : 1045

Pallas oppos'd her hand, and caus'd to glance  
 Far from the car, the strong immortal lance.  
 Then threw the force of Tydeus' warlike son ;  
 The jav'lin hiss'd ; the Goddess urg'd it on :

Where the broad cincture girt his armour round, 1050  
 It pierc'd the God : his groin receiv'd the wound.

From the rent skin, the warrior tugs again  
 The smoking steel. Mars bellows with the pain :  
 Loud,



Loud, as the roar encount'ring armies yield,  
When shouting millions shake the thund'ring field. 1055  
Both armies start, and trembling gaze around;  
And earth and heav'n rebellow to the sound.  
As vapours blown by Auster's sultry breath,  
Pregnant with plagues, and shedding seeds of death,  
Beneath the rage of burning Sirius rise, 1060  
Choke the parch'd earth, and blacken all the skies;  
In such a cloud the God from combat driv'n,  
High o'er the dusty whirlwind scales the heav'n.  
Wild with his pain, he fought the bright abodes,  
There fullen sat beneath the fire of Gods, 1065  
Show'd the celestial blood, and with a groan  
Thus pour'd his complaints before th'immortal throne.

Can Jove, supine, flagitious acts survey,  
And brook the furies of this daring day?  
For mortal men celestial pow'rs engage, 1070  
And Gods on Gods exert eternal rage.  
From thee, O Father! all these ills we bear,  
And thy fell daughter with the shield and spear:  
Thou gav'st that fury to the realms of light,  
Pernicious, wild, regardless of the right. 1075  
All heav'n beside reveres thy sov'reign sway,  
Thy voice we hear, and thy behests obey:  
'Tis hers t' offend, and ev'n offending share  
Thy breast, thy counsels, thy distinguish'd care:  
So boundless she, and thou so partial grown, 1080  
Well may we deem the wond'rous birth thy own.  
Now frantic Diomed, at her command,  
Against th'immortals lifts his raging hand:  
The heav'nly Venus first his fury found,  
Me next encount'ring, me he dar'd to wound; 1085  
Vanquish'd I fled: e'en I the God of fight,  
From mortal madness scarce was sav'd by flight.  
Else hadst thou seen me sink on yonder plain,  
Heap'd round, and heaving under loads of slain!  
Or pierc'd with Grecian darts, for ages lie, 1090  
Condemn'd to pain, though fated not to die.

Him thus upbraiding, with a wrathful look  
The Lord of thunders view'd, and stern bespoke.  
To me perfidious! this lamenting strain?  
Of lawless force shall lawless Mars complain? 1095  
Of



Of all the Gods who tread the spangled skies,  
 Thou most unjust, most odious in our eyes !  
 Inhuman discord is thy dire delight,  
 The waste of slaughter, and the rage of fight.  
 No bound, no law thy fiery temper quells. 1100  
 And all thy mother in thy soul rebels.  
 In vain our threats, in vain our pow'r we use ;  
 She gives th' example, and her son pursues.  
 Yet long th' inflicted pangs thou shalt not mourn.  
 Sprung since thou art from Jove, and heav'nly born. 1105  
 Else, sing'd with lightning, hadst thou hence been thrown,  
 Where chain'd on burning rocks the Titans groan.

Thus he who shakes Olympus with his nod ;  
 Then gave to Pæon's care the bleeding God.  
 With gentle hand the balm he pour'd around, 1110  
 And heal'd th' immortal flesh, and clos'd the wound.  
 As when the fig's press'd juice, infus'd in cream,  
 To curds coagulates the liquid stream,  
 Sudden the fluids fix, the parts combin'd ;  
 Such, and so soon, th' æthereal texture join'd. 1115  
 Cleans'd from the dust and gore, fair Hebe drest  
 His mighty limbs in an immortal vest.  
 Glorious he sat, in Majesty restor'd,  
 Fast by the throne of heav'n's superior lord.  
 Juno and Pallas mount the blest'sd abodes, 1120  
 Their task perform'd, and mix among the Gods.



T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K VI.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The Epifodes of Glaucus and Diomed, and of Hector  
and Andromache.

*The Gods having left the field, the Grecians prevail. Helenus, the chief augur of Troy, commands Hector to return to the city, in order to appoint a solemn procession of the queen and the Trojan matrons to the temple of Minerva, to entreat her to remove Diomed from the fight. The battle relaxing during the absence of Hector, Glaucus and Diomed have an interview between the two armies; where coming to the knowledge of the friendship and hospitality passed between their ancestors, they make exchange of their arms. Hector having performed the orders of Helenus, prevailed upon Paris to return to the battle, and taking a tender leave of his wife Andromache, hastens again to the field. The scene is first in the field of battle, between the rivers Simois and Scamander, and then changes to Troy.*

NOW heav'n forsakes the fight : th' immortals yield  
To human force and human skill the field :  
Dark show'rs of jav'lins fly from foes to foes ;  
Now here, now there, the tide of combat flows ;  
While Troy's fam'd streams, that bound the deathful  
plain,

On either side run purple to the main.

Great Ajax first to conquest led the way,  
Broke the thick ranks, and turn'd the doubtful day.

The Thracian Acamas his faulchion found,

And hew'd th' enormous giant to the ground ;

His thund'ring arm a deadly stroke imprest

Where the black horse-hair nodded o'er his crest :

K

Fix'd



Fix'd in his front the brazen weapon lies,  
 And seals in endless shades his swimming eyes.  
 Next Teuthra's son distain'd the sands with blood, 15  
 Axylus, hospitable, rich, and good :  
 In fair Arisbe's walls (his native place)  
 He held his feat ; a friend to human race.  
 Fast by the road, his ever open door  
 Oblig'd the wealthy, and reliev'd the poor. 20  
 To stern Tydides now he falls a prey,  
 No friend to guard him in the dreadful day !  
 Breathless the good man fell, and by his side  
 His faithful servant, old Calesius, dy'd.

By great Euryalus was Drefus slain, 25  
 And next he laid Opheltius on the plain.  
 Two twins were near, bold, beautiful, and young,  
 From a fair Naiad and Bucolion sprung :  
 (Laomedon's white flocks Bucolion fed,  
 That monarch's first-born by a foreign bed ; 30  
 In secret woods he won the Naiad's grace,  
 And two fair infants crown'd his strong embrace.)  
 Here dead they lay in all their youthful charms ;  
 The ruthless victor stripp'd their shining arms.

Aftyalus by Polypoetes fell ; 35  
 Ulysses' spear Pidytes sent to hell :  
 By Teucer's shaft brave Aretaon bled,  
 And Nestor's son laid stern Ablerus dead.  
 Great Agamemnon, leader of the brave,  
 The mortal wound of rich Elatus gave, 40  
 Who held in Pedasus his proud abode,  
 And till'd the banks where silver Satnio flow'd.  
 Melanthius by Eurypulus was slain ;  
 And Phylacus from Leitus flies in vain.

Unblest'd Adrastus next at mercy lies 45  
 Beneath the Spartan spear, a living prize.  
 Scar'd with the din and tumult of the fight,  
 His headlong steeds, precipitate in flight,  
 Rush'd on a tamarisk's strong trunk, and broke  
 The shatter'd chariot from the crooked yoke ; 50  
 Wide o'er the field, resistless as the wind,  
 For Troy they fly, and leave their lord behind.  
 Prone on his face he sinks beside the wheel :  
 Atrides o'er him shakes his vengeful steel ;

The



The fallen chief in suppliant posture press'd 55  
The victor's knees, and thus his pray'r address'd:  
Oh spare my youth, and for the life I owe  
Large gifts of price my father shall bestow:  
When fame shall tell, that, not in battle slain,  
Thy hollow ships his captive son detain, 60  
Rich heaps of brass shall in thy tent be told,  
And steel, well-temper'd, and persuasive gold.  
He said: compassion touch'd the hero's heart;  
He stood, suspended, with the lifted dart:  
As pity pleaded for his vanquish'd prize, 65  
Stern Agamemnon swift to vengeance flies,  
And, furious, thus! Oh impotent of mind!  
Shall these, shall these, Atrides, mercy find?  
Well hast thou known proud Troy's perfidious land,  
And well her natives merit at thy hand! 70  
Not one of all the race, nor sex, nor age,  
Shall save a Trojan from our boundless rage:  
Ilion shall perish whole, and bury all;  
Her babes, her infants at the breast, shall fall.  
A dreadful lesson of exampled fate, 75  
To warn the nations, and to curb the great!  
The monarch spoke; the words with warmth address'd,  
To rigid justice steel'd his brother's breast.  
Fierce from his knees the hapless chief he thrust;  
The monarch's jav'lin stretch'd him in the dust. 80  
Then pressing with his foot his panting heart,  
Forth from the slain he tugg'd the reeking dart.  
Old Nestor saw, and rous'd the warrior's rage;  
Thus, heroes! thus, the vig'rous combat wage!  
No sons of Mars descend, for servile gains, 85  
To touch the booty, while a foe remains.  
Behold yon glitt'ring host, your future spoil!  
First gain the conquest, then reward the toil.  
And now had Greece eternal fame acquir'd,  
And frightened Troy within her walls retir'd;  
Had not sage Helenus her state redrest, 90  
Taught by the Gods that mov'd her sacred breast.  
Where Hector stood, with great Æneas join'd,  
The seer reveal'd the counsels of his mind:  
Ye gen'rous chiefs! on whom th'immortals lay  
The cares and glories of this doubtful day, 95



On whom your aids, your country's hopes depend ;  
 Wise to consult, and active to defend !  
 Here, at your gates, our brave efforts unite,  
 Turn back the routed, and forbid the flight ; 100  
 Ere yet their wives soft arms the cowards gain,  
 The sport and insult of the hostile train.  
 When your commands have hearten'd every band,  
 Ourselves, here fix'd, will make the dang'rous stand ;  
 Press'd as we are, and fore of former fight, 105  
 These straits demand our last remains of might.  
 Meanwhile, thou, Hector, to the town retire,  
 And teach our mother what the Gods require :  
 Direct the queen to lead th' assembled train,  
 Of Troy's chief matrons, to Minerva's fane ; 110  
 Unbar the sacred gates, and seek the pow'r  
 With offer'd vows, in Ilion's topmost tow'r.  
 The largest mantle her rich wardrobes hold,  
 Most priz'd for art, and labour'd o'er with gold.  
 Before the Goddess' honour'd knees be spread, 115  
 And twelve young heifers to her altars led ;  
 If so the pow'r, aton'd by fervent pray'r,  
 Our wives, our infants, and our city spare,  
 And far avert Tydides' wasteful ire,  
 That mows whole troops, and makes all Troy retire.  
 Not thus Achilles taught our hosts to dread, 121  
 Sprung tho' he was from more than mortal bed ;  
 Not thus, resistless, rul'd the stream of fight,  
 In rage unbounded, and unmatched in might.  
 Hector obedient heard ; and, with a bound, 125  
 Leap'd from his trembling chariot to the ground ;  
 Thro' all his host, inspiring force, he flies,  
 And bids the thunder of the battle rise.  
 With rage recruited the bold Trojans glow,  
 And turn the tide of conflict on the foe : 130  
 Fierce in the front he shakes two dazzling spears :  
 All Greece recedes, and midst her triumphs fears.  
 Some God, they thought, who rul'd the fate of wars,  
 Shot down, avenging, from the vault of stars.  
 Then thus, aloud : Ye dauntless Dardans hear ! 135  
 And you whom distant nations send to war !  
 Be mindful of the strength your fathers bore ;  
 Be still yourselves, and Hector asks no more.



One hour demands me in the Trojan wall,  
 To bid our altars flame, and victims fall : 140  
 Nor shall, I trust, the matrons holy train,  
 And rev'rend elders, seeks the Gods in vain.

This said, with ample strides the hero past;  
 The shield's large orb behind his shoulder cast,  
 His neck o'er shading, to his ankle hung; 145  
 And as he march'd, the brazen buckler rung.

Now paus'd the battle, (godlike Hector gone),  
 When daring Glaucus and great Tydeus' son  
 Between both armies met : the chiefs from far  
 Observ'd each other, and had mark'd for war. 150  
 Near as they drew, Tydides thus began :

What art thou, boldest of the race of man?  
 Our eyes, till now, that aspect ne'er beheld,  
 Where fame is reap'd amid th' embattled field:  
 Yet far before the troops thou dar'st appear, 155  
 And meet a lance the fiercest heroes fear.

Unhappy they, and born of luckless fires,  
 Who tempt our fury when Minerva fires,  
 But if from heav'n, celestial thou descend,  
 Know, with immortals we no more contend. 160

Not long Lycurgus view'd the golden light,  
 That daring man who mix'd with Gods in fight.  
 Bacchus, and Bacchus' votaries, he drove  
 With brandish'd steel from Nyssa's sacred grove :  
 Their consecrated spears lay scatter'd round, 165  
 With curling vines and twisted ivy bound :

While Bacchus headlong fought the briny flood,  
 And Thetis' arms receiv'd the trembling God.  
 Nor fail'd the crime th' immortals wrath to move,  
 (Th' immortals blest'd with endless ease above); 170  
 Depriv'd of sight by their avenging doom,

Cheerless he breath'd, and wander'd in the gloom:  
 Then sunk unpity'd to the dire abodes,

A wretch accurs'd and hated by the Gods !  
 I brave not heav'n, but if the fruits of earth 175  
 Sustain thy life, and human be thy birth ;  
 Bold as thou art, too prodigal of breath,  
 Approach, and enter the dark gates of death.

What, or from whence I am, or who my fire,  
 (Reply'd the chief), can Tydeus' son enquire? 180



Like leaves on trees the race of man is found,  
 Now green in youth, now with'ring on the ground;  
 Another race the following spring supplies;  
 They fall successive, and successive rise:  
 (So generations in their course decay) 185  
 So flourish these, when those are past away,  
 But if thou still persist to search my birth,  
 Then hear a tale that fills the spacious earth.  
 A city stands on Argos' utmost bound,  
 (Argos the fair, for warlike steeds renown'd). 190  
 Æolian Sisyphus, with wisdom blest,  
 In ancient time the happy walls possess,  
 Then call'd Ephyre: Glaucus was his son;  
 Great Glaucus, father of Bellerophon,  
 Who o'er the sons of men in beauty shin'd, 195  
 Lov'd for that valour which preserves mankind,  
 Then mighty Prætus, Argos' sceptre sway'd,  
 Whose hard commands Bellerophon obey'd.  
 With direful jealousy the monarch rag'd,  
 And the brave prince in num'rous toils engag'd, 200  
 For him Antæa burn'd with lawless flame,  
 And strove to tempt him from the paths of fame:  
 In vain she tempted the relentless youth,  
 Endu'd with wisdom, sacred fear, and truth.  
 Fir'd at his scorn, the queen to Prætus fled, 205  
 And begg'd revenge for her insulted bed:  
 Incens'd, he heard, resolving on his fate;  
 But hospitable laws restrain'd his hate:  
 To Lycia the devoted youth he sent,  
 With tablets seal'd, that told his dire intent. 210  
 Now bless'd by ev'ry pow'r who guards the good,  
 The chief arriv'd, at Xanthus' silver flood:  
 There Lycia's monarch paid him honour's due;  
 Nine days he feasted, and nine bulls he slew.  
 But when the tenth bright morning orient glow'd, 215  
 The faithful youth his monarch's mandate show'd:  
 The fatal tablets, till that instant seal'd,  
 The deathful secret to the king reveal'd.  
 First, dire Chimæra's conquest was enjoin'd:  
 A mingled monster, of no mortal kind; 220  
 Behind, a dragon's fiery tail was spread;  
 A goat's rough body bore a lion's head;

Her



Her pitchy nostrils flaky flames expire ;  
Her gaping throat emits infernal fire.

This pest he slaughter'd, (for he read the skies, 225  
And trusted heav'n's informing prodigies) ;  
Then met in arms the Solymæan crew,  
(Fiercest of men), and those the warrior flew,  
Next the bold Amazon's whole force defy'd ;  
And conquer'd still, for heav'n was on his side. 230

Nor ended here his toils : his Lycian foes,  
At his return, a treach'rous ambush rose,  
With levell'd spears along the winding shore ;  
There fell they breathless, and return'd no more.

At length the monarch with repentant grief 235  
Confess'd the Gods, and god-descended chief ;  
His daughter gave, the stranger to detain,  
With half the honours of his ample reign :  
The Lycians grant a chosen space of ground,  
With woods, with vineyards, and with harvests crown'd.  
There long the chief his happy lot possess'd, 241  
With two brave sons and one fair daughter blest'd ;  
(Fair ev'n in heav'nly eyes ; her fruitful love  
Crown'd with Sarpedon's birth th' embrace of Jove) ;  
But when at last, distracted in his mind, 245  
Forsook by heav'n, forsaking human kind,  
Wide o'er th' Aleian field he chose to stray,  
A long, forlorn, uncomfortable way !  
Woes heap'd on woes consum'd his wasted heart ;  
His beauteous daughter fell by Phœbe's dart ; 250  
His eldest born by raging Mars was slain,  
In combat on the Solymæan plain,  
Hippolochus surviv'd ; from him I came ;  
The honour'd author of my birth and name ;  
By his decree I fought the Trojan town, 255  
By his instructions learn to win renown,  
To stand the first in worth as in command,  
To add new honours to my native land ;  
Before my eyes my mighty fires to place,  
And emulate the glories of our race. 260

He spoke, and transport fill'd Tydides' heart ;  
In earth the gen'rous warrior fix'd his dart,  
Then friendly, thus, the Lycian prince address'd :  
Welcome, my brave, hereditary guest !

Thus



Thus ever let us meet, with kind embrace, 265  
Nor stain the sacred friendship of our race.

Know, chief, our grandfires have been guests of old ;  
Oeneus the strong, Bellerophon the bold :

Our ancient seat his honour'd presence grac'd,  
Where twenty days in genial rites he pass'd, 270

The parting heroes mutual presents left ;

A golden goblet was thy grandfire's gift ;

Oeneus a belt of matchless work bestow'd,

That rich with Tyrian dye refulgent glow'd.

(This from his pledge I learn'd, which safely stor'd 275

Among my treasures, still adorns my board :

For Tydeus left me young, when Thebè's wall

Beheld the sons of Greece untimely fall).

Mindful of this, in friendship let us join ;

If heav'n our steps to foreign lands incline, 280

My guest in Argos thou, and I in Lycia thine.

Enough of Trojans to this lance shall yield,

In the full harvest of yon ample field ;

Enough of Greeks shall dye thy spear with gore ;

But thou and Diomed be foes no more ; 285

Now change we arms, and prove to either host

We guard the friendship of the line we boast.

Thus having said, the gallant chiefs alight,

Their hands they join, their mutual faith they plight ;

Brave Glaucus then each narrow thought resign'd, 290

(Jove warm'd his bosom and enlarg'd his mind :

For Diomed's brass arms, of mean device,

For which nine oxen paid, (a vulgar price),

He gave his own, of gold divinely wrought,

A hundred beeves the shining purchase bought. 295

Mean-time the guardian of the Trojan state,

Great Hector, enter'd at the Scæan gate.

Beneath the beech-tree's consecrated shades,

The Trojan matrons and the Trojan maids

Around him flock'd, all press'd with pious care 300

For husbands, brothers, sons, engag'd in war.

He bids the train in long procession go,

And seek the Gods, t' avert th' impending woe.

And now to Priam's stately courts he came,

Rais'd on arch'd columns of stupendous frame ; 305  
O'er



O'er these a range of noble structure runs,  
 The rich pavilions of his fifty sons,  
 In fifty chambers lodg'd : and rooms of state  
 Oppos'd to those, where Priam's daughters sat :  
 Twelve domes for them and their lov'd spouses shone,  
 Of equal beauty, and of polish'd stone. 311

Hither great Hector pass'd, nor pass'd unseen,  
 Of royal Hecuba, his mother-queen.

(With her Laodicè, whose beauteous face  
 Surpass'd the nymphs of Troy's illustrious race). 315

Long in a strict embrace she held her son,  
 And press'd his hand, and tender thus begun.

O Hector ! say, what great occasion calls  
 My son from fight, when Greece surrounds our walls ?  
 Com'st thou to supplicate th' almighty pow'r, 320  
 With lifted hands from Ilion's lofty tow'r ?

Stay, till I bring the cup with Bacchus crown'd,  
 In Jove's high name, to sprinkle on the ground,  
 And pay due vows to all the Gods around. }

Then with a plenteous draught refresh thy soul, 325  
 And draw new spirits from the gen'rous bowl ;  
 Spent, as thou art, with long laborious fight,  
 The brave defender of thy country's right.

Far hence be Bacchus' gifts, (the chief rejoin'd) :  
 Inflaming wine, pernicious to mankind, 330  
 Unnerves the limbs, and dulls the noble mind :  
 Let chiefs abstain, and spare the sacred juice  
 To sprinkle to the Gods, its better use.

By me that holy office were profan'd ;  
 Ill fits it me, with human gore distain'd, 335  
 To the pure skies these horrid hands to raise,  
 Or offer heav'n's great fire polluted praise.

You, with your matrons, go ! a spotless train,  
 And burn rich odours in Minerva's fane.

The largest mantle your full wardrobes hold, 340  
 Most priz'd for art, and labour'd o'er with gold.

Before the Goddess' honour'd knees be spread,  
 And twelve young heifers to her altar led.

So may the pow'r aton'd by fervent pray'r,  
 Our wives, our infants, and our city spare, 345

And far avert Tydides' wasteful ire,  
 Who mows whole troops, and makes all Troy retire.

Be



Be this, O mother, your religious care;  
 I go to rouse soft Paris to the war;  
 If yet, not lost to all the sense of shame, 350  
 The recreant warrior hear the voice of fame,  
 Oh would kind earth the hateful wretch embrace,  
 That pest of Troy, that ruin of our race!  
 Deep to the dark abyss might he descend,  
 Troy yet should flourish, and my sorrows end. 355

This heard, she gave command; and summon'd came  
 Each noble matron, and illustrious dame.  
 The Phrygian queen to her rich wardrobe went,  
 Where treasur'd odours breath'd a costly scent.  
 There lay the vestures of no vulgar art, 360  
 Sidonian maids embroider'd ev'ry part,  
 Whom from soft Sidon youthful Paris bore,  
 With Helen touching on the Tyrian shore,  
 Here as the queen revolv'd with careful eyes  
 The various textures and the various dyes, 365  
 She chose a veil that shone superior far,  
 And glow'd refulgent as the morning star.  
 Herself with this the long procession leads;  
 The train majestically slow proceeds.

Soon as to Ilion's topmost tow'r they come, 370  
 And awful reach the high Palladian dome,  
 Antenor's consort, fair Theano waits  
 As Pallas' priestess, and unbars the gates.  
 With hands uplifted and imploring eyes,  
 They fill the dome with supplicating cries. 375  
 The priestess then the shining veil displays,  
 Plac'd on Minerva's knees, and thus she prays:

Oh awful Goddess! ever dreadful maid,  
 Troy's strong defence, unconquer'd Pallas, aid!  
 Break thou Tydides' spear, and let him fall 380  
 Prone on the dust before the Trojan wall.  
 So twelve young heifers, guiltless of the yoke,  
 Shall fill thy temple with a grateful smoke.  
 But thou, aton'd by penitence and pray'r,  
 Ourselves, our infants, and our city spare! 385  
 So pray'd the priestess in her holy fane;  
 So vow'd the matrons, but they vow'd in vain.

While these appear before the pow'r with pray'rs,  
 Hector to Paris' lofty dome repairs.

Himself



Himself the mansion rais'd, from ev'ry part 390  
Assembling architects of matchless art.

Near Priam's court and Hector's palace stands  
The pompous structure, and the town commands.  
A spear the hero bore of wond'rous strength,  
Of full ten cubits was the lance's length; 395

The steely point with golden ringlets join'd,  
Before him brandish'd, at each motion shin'd.  
Thus ent'ring, in the glitt'ring rooms he found  
His brother chief, whose useless arms lay round,  
His eyes delighting with their splendid show, 400

Bright'ning the shield, and polishing the bow.  
Beside him Helen, with her virgins, stands,  
Guides their rich labours, and instructs their hands.

Him thus unactive, with an ardent look  
The prince beheld, and high-resenting spoke : 405  
Thy hate to Troy, is this the time to show ?  
(Oh wretch ill-fated, and thy country's foe !)  
Paris and Greece against us both conspire ;  
Thy close resentment, and their vengeful ire.

For thee great Ilion's guardian heroes fall, 410  
Till heaps of dead alone defend her wall ;  
For thee the soldier bleeds, the matron mourns,  
And wasteful war in all its fury burns.

Ungrateful man ! deserves not this thy care,  
Our troops to hearten, and our toils to share ? 415  
Rise, or behold the conqu'ring flames ascend,  
And all the Phrygian glories at an end.

Brother, 'tis just (reply'd the beauteous youth) ;  
Thy free remonstrance proves thy worth and truth :  
Yet charge my absence less, oh gen'rous chief ! 420  
On hate to Troy, than conscious shame and grief :  
Here, hid from human eyes, thy brother sat,  
And mourn'd in secret, his, and Ilion's fate.

'Tis now enough : now glory spreads her charms,  
And beauteous Helen calls her chief to arms. 425  
Conquest to-day my happier sword may bless,  
'Tis man's to fight, but heav'n's to give success.

But while I am, contain thy ardent mind ;  
Or go, and Paris shall not lag behind.

He said, nor answer'd Priam's warlike son ; 430  
When Helen thus with lowly grace begun :

Oh



Oh gen'rous brother ! if the guilty dame,  
 That caus'd these woes, deserves a sister's name !  
 Wou'd heav'n, ere all these dreadful deeds were done,  
 The day, that shou'd me to the golden sun, 435  
 Had seen my death ! Why did not whirlwinds bear  
 The fatal infant to the fowls of air ?

Why sunk I not beneath the whelming tide,  
 And 'midst the roarings of the waters dy'd ?  
 Heav'n fill'd up all my ills, and I accurst 440  
 Bore all, and Paris of those ills the worst.

Helen at least a braver spouse might claim,  
 Warm'd with some virtue, some regard of fame !  
 Now tir'd with toils, thy fainting limbs recline,  
 With toils, sustain'd, for Paris' sake and mine : 445  
 The Gods have link'd our miserable doom,  
 Our present woe, and infamy to come :

Wide shall it spread, and last thro' ages long,  
 Example sad ! and theme of future song

The chief reply'd : This time forbids to rest : 440  
 The Trojan bands, by hostile fury prest,  
 Demand their Hector, and his arm require ;  
 The combat urges, and my soul's on fire.

Urge thou thy knight to march where glory calls,  
 And timely join me, ere I leave the walls. 455

Ere yet I mingle in the direful fray,  
 My wife, my infant, claim a moment's stay ;  
 This day (perhaps the last that sees me here)  
 Demands a parting word, a tender tear :  
 This day, some God who hates our Trojan land, 460  
 May vanquish Hector by a Grecian hand.

He said, and pass'd with sad presaging heart  
 To seek his spouse, his soul's far dearer part ;  
 At home he sought her, but he sought in vain :  
 She, with one maid of all her menial train, 465

Had thence retir'd ; and with her second joy,  
 The young Astyanax, the hope of Troy ;  
 Pensive she stood on Ilion's tow'ry height,  
 Beheld the war, and sicken'd at the sight :  
 There her sad eyes in vain her lord explore, 470  
 Or weep the wounds her bleeding country bore.

But he who found not whom his soul desir'd,  
 Whose virtue charm'd him as her beauty fir'd,



Stood in the gates, and ask'd what way she bent  
Her parting step? If to the fane she went, 475  
Where late the mourning matrons made resort;  
Or sought her sisters in the Trojan court?  
Not to the court, (reply'd th' attendant train),  
Nor mix'd with matrons to Minerva's fane:  
To Ilion's steepy tow'r she bent her way, 480  
To mark the fortunes of the doubtful day.  
Troy fled, she heard, before the Grecian sword;  
She heard, and trembled for her absent lord:  
Distracted with surprise, she seem'd to fly,  
Fear on her cheek, and sorrow in her eye. 485  
The nurse attended with her infant boy,  
The young Aftyanax, the hope of Troy.

Hector, this heard, return'd without delay:  
Swift thro' the town he trod his former way,  
Thro' streets of palaces, and walks of state; 490  
And met the mourner at the Scæan gate.  
With haste to meet him sprung the joyful fair,  
His blameless wife, Aëtion's wealthy heir:  
(Cilician Thebè great Aëtion sway'd,  
And Hippoplacus' wide-extended shade). 495  
The nurse stood near, in whose embraces prest  
His only hope hung smiling at her breast,  
Whom each soft charm and early grace adorn,  
Fair as the new-born star that gilds the morn.  
To this lov'd infant, Hector gave the name 500  
Scamandrius, from Scamander's honour'd stream;  
Aftyanax the Trojans call'd the boy,  
From his great father, the defence of Troy.  
Silent the warrior smil'd, and pleas'd, resign'd  
To tender passions all his mighty mind: 505  
His beauteous princess cast a mournful look,  
Hung on his hand, and then dejected spoke;  
Her bosom labour'd with a boding sigh,  
And the big tear stood trembling in her eye.

Too daring prince! ah whether dost thou run? 510  
Ah too forgetful of thy wife and son!  
And think'st thou not how wretched we shall be,  
A widow I, an helpless orphan he!  
For sure such courage, length of life denies,  
And thou must fall, thy virtue's sacrifice. 515



Greece in her single heroes strove in vain;  
 Now hosts oppose thee, and thou must be slain!  
 Oh, grant me, Gods! ere Hector meets his doom,  
 All I can ask of heaven, an early tomb!  
 So shall my days in one sad tenor run, 520  
 And end with sorrows as they first begun.  
 No parent now remains my grief to share,  
 No father's aid, no mother's tender care.  
 The fierce Achilles wrapt our walls in fire,  
 Laid Thebè waste, and slew my warlike fire! 525  
 His fate compassion in the victor bred;  
 Stern as he was, he yet rever'd the dead,  
 His radiant arms preserv'd from hostile spoil,  
 And laid him decent on the fun'ral pile;  
 Then rais'd a mountain where his bones were burn'd:  
 The mountain-nymphs the rural tomb adorn'd, 531  
 Jove's sylvan daughters bade their elms bestow  
 A barren shade, and in his honour grow.

By the same arm my sev'n brave brothers fell;  
 In one sad day beheld the gates of hell: 535  
 While the fat herds and snowy flocks they fed,  
 Amid their fields the hapless heroes bled!  
 My mother liv'd to bear the victor's bands,  
 The queen of Hippoplacia's sylvan lands:  
 Redeem'd too late, she scarce beheld again 540  
 Her pleasing empire and her native plain,  
 When ah! oppress'd by life-consuming woe,  
 She fell a victim to Diana's bow.

Yet while my Hector still survives, I see  
 My father, mother, brethren, all, in thee. 545  
 Alas! my parents, brothers, kindred, all,  
 Once more will perish, if my Hector fall.  
 Thy wife, thy infant, in thy danger share:  
 Oh prove a husband's and a father's care!  
 That quarter most the skilful Greeks annoy, 550  
 Where yon wild fig-trees join the wall of Troy:  
 Thou, from this tow'r defend th' important post;  
 There Agamemnon points his dreadful host,  
 That pass Tydides, Ajax, strive to gain,  
 And there the vengeful Spartan fires his train. 555  
 Thrice our bold foes the fierce attack have giv'n,  
 Or led by hope, or dictated from heav'n.

Let



Let others in the field their arms employ,  
But stay my Hector here, and guard his Troy.

The chief reply'd : That post shall be my care, 560  
Not that alone, but all the works of war.

How would the sons of Troy, in arms renown'd,  
And Troy's proud dames, whose garments sweep the  
ground,

Attaint the lustre of my former name,  
Should Hector basely quit the field of fame ? 565

My early youth was bred to martial plains,

My soul impels me to th' embattled plains :

Let me be foremost to defend the throne,

And guard my father's glories, and my own.

Yet come it will, the day decreed by fates ; 570

(How my heart trembles while my tongue relates !)

The day when thou, imperial Troy ! must bend,

And see thy warriors fall, thy glories end.

And yet no dire presage so wounds my mind,

My mother's death, the ruin of my kind, 575

Not Priam's hoary hairs defil'd with gore,

Not all my brothers gasping on the shore ;

As thine, Andromache ! thy griefs I dread :

I see thee trembling, weeping, captive led !

In Argive looms our battles to design, 580

And woes, of which so large a part was thine ?

To bear the victor's hard commands, or bring

The weight of waters from Hyperia's spring.

There, while you groan beneath the load of life,

They cry, Behold the mighty Hector's wife ! 585

Some haughty Greek, who loves thy tears to see,

Embitters all thy woes, by naming me.

The thoughts of glory past, and present shame,

A thousand griefs shall waken at the name !

May I lie cold before that dreadful day, 590

Press'd with a load of monumental clay !

Thy Hector, wrapt in everlasting sleep,

Shall neither hear thee sigh, nor see thee weep.

Thus having spoke, th' illustrious chief of Troy

Stretch'd his fond arms to clasp the lovely boy. 595

The babe clung, crying, to his nurse's breast,

Scarr'd at the dazzling helm, and nodding crest.



With secret pleasure each fond parent smil'd,  
 And Hector hasted to relieve his child,  
 The glitt'ring terrors from his brows unbound, 600  
 And plac'd the beaming helmet on the ground.  
 Then kiss'd the child, and lifting high in air,  
 Thus to the Gods preferr'd a father's pray'r.

O thou, whose glory fills th' æthereal throne !  
 And all ye deathless pow'rs ! protect my son ! 605  
 Grant him, like me, to purchase just renown,  
 To guard the Trojans, to defend the crown,  
 Against his country's foes the war to wage,  
 And rise the Hector of the future age !  
 So when, triumphant from successful toils, 610  
 Of heroes slain, he bears the reeking spoils,  
 Whose hosts may hail him with deserv'd acclaim,  
 And say : This chief transcends his father's fame :  
 While pleas'd amidst the gen'ral shouts of Troy,  
 His mother's conscious heart o'erflows with joy. 615

He spoke, and fondly gazing on her charms,  
 Restor'd the pleasing burden to her arms ;  
 Soft on her fragrant breast the babe she laid,  
 Hush'd to repose, and with a smile survey'd.  
 The troubled pleasure soon chafis'd by fear, 620  
 She mingled with a smile a tender tear ;  
 The soften'd chief with kind compassion view'd,  
 And dry'd the falling drops, and thus pursu'd :

Andromache ! my soul's far better part,  
 Why with untimely sorrows heaves thy heart ? 625  
 No hostile hand can antedate my doom,  
 Till fate condemns me to the silent tomb.  
 Fix'd is the term of all the race of earth ;  
 And such the hard condition of our birth.  
 No force can then resist, no flight can save, 630  
 All sink alike, the fearful and the brave.  
 No more——but hasten to thy tasks at home,  
 There guide the spindle, and direct the loom :  
 Me glory summons to the martial scene,  
 The field of combat is the sphere for men. 635  
 Where heroes war, the foremost place I claim,  
 The first in danger, as the first in fame.

Thus having said, the glorious chief resumes  
 His tow'ry helmet, black with shading plumes.

His



His princess parts with a prophetic sigh,  
Unwilling parts, and oft reverts her eye,  
That stream'd at ev'ry look: then, moving slow,  
Sought her own palace, and indulg'd her woe.  
There, while her tears deplor'd the godlike man,  
Thro' all her train the soft infection ran; 645  
The pious maids their mingled sorrows shed,  
And mourn the living Hector, as the dead.

But now, no longer deaf to honour's call,  
Forth issues Paris from the palace wall:  
In brazen arms that cast a gleamy ray, 650  
Swift thro' the town the warrior bends his way.  
The wanton courser thus, with reins unbound,  
Breaks from his stall, and beats the trembling ground;  
Pamper'd and proud, he seeks the wonted tides,  
And laves, in height of blood, his shining sides; 655  
His head now freed, he tosses to the skies;  
His mane, dishevel'd, o'er his shoulder flies;  
He snuffs the females in the distant plain,  
And springs, exulting, to his fields again:  
With equal triumph, sprightly, bold, and gay, 660  
In arms refulgent as the God of day,  
The son of Priam, glorying in his might,  
Rush'd forth with Hector to the fields of fight.

And now the warriors passing on the way,  
The graceful Paris first excus'd his stay. 665  
To whom the noble Hector thus reply'd:  
O chief! in blood, and now in arms, ally'd!  
Thy pow'r in war with justice none contest;  
Known is thy courage, and thy strength confest.  
What pity sloth should seize a soul so brave, 670  
Or godlike Paris live a woman's slave!  
My heart weeps blood at what the Trojans say,  
And hopes, thy deeds shall wipe the stain away.  
Haste then, in all their glorious labours share;  
For much they suffer, for thy sake, in war. 675  
These ills shall cease, whene'er by Jove's decree  
We crown the bowl to Heav'n and Liberty;  
While the proud foe his frustrate triumphs mourns,  
And Greece, indignant, thro' her seas returns.



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K VII.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The single combat of Hector and Ajax.

*The battle renewing with double ardour upon the return of Hector, Minerva is under apprehensions for the Greeks. Apollo seeing her descend from Olympus, joins her near the Scæan gate. They agree to put off the general engagement for that day, and incite Hector to challenge the Greeks to a single combat. Nine of the princes accepting the challenge, the lot is cast, and falls upon Ajax. These heroes, after several attacks, are parted by the night. The Trojans calling a council, Antenor proposes the delivery of Helen to the Greeks; to which Paris will not consent, but offers to restore them her riches. Priam sends a herald to make this offer, and to demand a truce for burning the dead, the last of which only is agreed to by Agamemnon. When the funerals are performed, the Greeks, pursuant to the advice of Nestor, erect a fortification to protect their fleet and camp, flanked with towers, and defended by a ditch and palisadoes. Neptune testifies his jealousy at this work, but is pacified by a promise from Jupiter. Both armies pass the night in feasting; but Jupiter disheartens the Trojans with thunder and other signs of his wrath.*

*The three and twentieth day ends with the duel of Hector and Ajax; the next day the truce is agreed: another is taken up in the funeral rites of the slain; and one more in building the fortification before the ships. So that somewhat above three days is employed in this book. The scene lies wholly in the field.*

SO spoke the guardian of the Trojan state,  
Then rush'd impetuous thro' the Scæan gate.

Him



Him Paris follow'd to the dire alarms ;  
 Both breathing slaughter, both resolv'd in arms.  
 As when two sailors lab'ring thro' the main, 5  
 That long had heav'd the weary oar in vain,  
 Jove bids at length th' expected gales arise ;  
 The gales blow grateful, and the vessel flies :  
 So welcome these to Troy's desiring train ;  
 The bands are cheer'd, the war awakes again. 10

Bold Paris first the work of death begun  
 On great Menestheus, Areithous' son:  
 Sprung from the fair Philomeda's embrace,  
 The pleasing Arnè was his native place.  
 Then sunk Eioneus to the shades below, 15  
 Beneath his steely casque he felt the blow  
 Full on his neck, from Hector's weighty hand ;  
 And roll'd, with limbs relax'd along the land.  
 By Glaucus' spear the bold Iphionus bleeds,  
 Fix'd in the shoulder as he mounts his steeds ; 20  
 Headlong he tumbles ; his slack nerves unbound,  
 Drop the cold useless members on the ground.

When now Minerva saw her Argives slain,  
 From vast Olympus to the gleaming plain  
 Fierce she descends : Apollo mark'd her flight, 25  
 Nor shot less swift from Ilion's tow'ry height :  
 Radiant they met, beneath the beechen shade ;  
 When thus Apollo to the blue-ey'd maid :

What cause, O daughter of Almighty Jove !  
 Thus wings thy progress from the realms above ? 30  
 Once more impetuous dost thou bend thy way,  
 To give to Greece the long-divided day ?  
 Too much has Troy already felt thy hate,  
 Now breathe thy rage, and hush the stern debate :  
 This day, the business of the field suspend ; 35  
 War soon shall kindle, and great Ilion bend ;  
 Since vengeful Goddesses confed'rate join  
 To raze her walls, tho' built by hands divine.

To whom the progeny of Jove replies :  
 I left, for this, the counsel of the skies : 40  
 But who shall bid conflicting hosts forbear,  
 What art shall calm the furious sons of war ?  
 To her the God : Great Hector's soul incite  
 To dare the boldest Greek to single fight,

Till



Till Greece, provok'd, from all her numbers show 45  
A warrior worthy to be Hector's foe.

At this agreed, the heav'nly pow'rs withdrew ;  
Sage Helenus their secret counsels knew :  
Hector inspir'd he fought : to him addrest,  
Thus told the dictates of his sacred breast. 50

O son of Priam ! let thy faithful ear  
Receive my words ; thy friend and brother hear !  
Go forth persuasive, and a while engage  
The warring nations to suspend their rage :  
Then dare the boldest of the hostile train 55  
To mortal combat on the list'd plain.

For not this day shall end thy glorious date ;  
The Gods have spoke it, and their voice is fate.  
He said : the warrior heard the word with joy,  
Then with his spear restrain'd the youth of Troy, 60  
Held by the midst athwart. On either hand  
The squadrons part ; th' expecting Trojans stand ;  
Great Agamemnon bids the Greeks forbear ;  
They breathe, and hush the tumult of the war.

Th' Athenian maid, and glorious God of day, 65  
With silent joy the settling hosts survey :  
In form of vultures, on the beech's height  
They sit conceal'd, and wait the future fight.

The thronging troops obscure the dusky fields,  
Horrid with bristling spears, and gleaming shields. 70  
As when a gen'ral darkness veils the main,  
(Soft Zephyr curling the wide wat'ry plain),  
The waves scarce heave, the face of ocean sleeps,  
And a still horror saddens all the deeps :  
Thus in thick orders settling wide around, 75  
At length compos'd they sit, and shade the ground.  
Great Hector first amidst both armies broke  
The solemn silence, and their pow'rs bespoke.

Hear all ye Trojan, all ye Grecian bands,  
What my soul prompts, and what some God commands.  
Great Jove, averse our warfare to compose, 80  
O'erwhelms the nations with new toils and woes ;  
War with a fiercer tide once more returns,  
Till Ilion falls, or till yon navy burns.

You then, O princes of the Greeks ! appear ; 85  
'Tis Hector speaks, and calls the Gods to hear :

From



From all your troops select the boldest knight,  
And him, the boldest, Hector dares to fight.  
Here if I fall, by chance of battle slain,  
Be his my spoil, and his these arms remain; 90  
But let my body, to my friends return'd,  
By Trojan hands, and Trojan flames be burn'd.  
And if Apollo, in whose aid I trust,  
Shall stretch your daring champion in the dust;  
If mine the glory to despoil the foe; 95  
On Phœbus' temple I'll his arms bestow;  
The breathless carcase to your navy sent,  
Greece on the shore shall raise a monument;  
Which when some future mariner surveys,  
Wash'd by broad Hellespont's resounding seas, 100  
Thus shall he say, "A valiant Greek lies there,  
"By Hector slain, the mighty man of war."  
The stone shall tell your vanquish'd hero's name,  
And distant ages learn the victor's fame.

This fierce defiance Greece astonish'd heard, 105  
Blush'd to refuse, and to accept it, fear'd.  
Stern Menelaüs first the silence broke,  
And inly groaning, thus opprobrious spoke.

Women of Greece! Oh scandal of your race,  
Whose coward souls your manly form disgrace, 110  
How great the shame, when ev'ry age shall know  
That not a Grecian met this noble foe!  
Go then: resolve to earth, from whence ye grew,  
A heartless, spiritless, inglorious crew!  
Be what ye seem, unanimated clay? 115  
Myself will dare the danger of the day.

'Tis man's bold task the gen'rous strife to try,  
But in the hands of God is victory.  
These words scarce spoke, with gen'rous ardour prest,  
His manly limbs in azure arms he drest: 120

That day, Atrides! a superior hand  
Had stretch'd thee breathless on the hostile strand;  
But all at once, thy fury to compose,  
The kings of Greece, an awful band, arose:  
Ev'n he their chief, great Agamemnon, prest'd 125  
Thy daring hand, and this advice address'd.

Whither, O Menelaüs! wouldst thou run,  
And tempt a fate, which prudence bids thee shun?

Griev'd



Griev'd tho' thou art, forbear the rash design;  
Great Hector's arm is mightier far than thine. 130

Ev'n fierce Achilles learn'd its force to fear,  
And trembling met this dreadful son of war.

Sit thou secure amidst thy social band;

Greece in our cause shall arm some pow'rful hand,

The mightiest warrior of the Achaian name, 135

Tho' bold, and burning with desire of fame,

Content, the doubtful honour might forego,

So great the danger, and so brave the foe.

He said, and turn'd his brother's vengeful mind;

He stoop'd to reason, and his rage resign'd, 140

No longer bent to rush on certain harms,

His joyful friends unbrace his azure arms.

He, from whose lips divine persuasion flows,

Grave Nestor, then, in graceful act arose.

Thus to the Kings he spoke: What grief, what shame

Attend on Greece, and all the Grecian name? 146

How shall, alas! her hoary heroes mourn

Their sons degen'rate, and their race a scorn?

What tears shall down thy silver beard be roll'd,

Oh Peleus, old in arms, in wisdom old! 150

Once with what joy the gen'rous prince would hear

Of ev'ry chief who fought this glorious war,

Participate their fame, and pleas'd enquire

Each name, each action, and each hero's fire!

Gods! should he see our warrior's trembling stand, 155

And trembling all before one hostile hand;

How would he lift his aged arms on high,

Lament inglorious Greece, and beg to die!

Oh! would to all th' immortal pow'rs above,

Minerva, Phœbus, and almighty Jove! 160

Years might again roll back, my youth renew,

And give this arm the spring which once it knew;

When fierce in war, where Jordan's waters fall

I led my troops to Phea's trembling wall,

And with th' Arcadian spears my prowess try'd, 165

Where Caledon rolls down his rapid tide.

There Ereuthalion brav'd us in the field,

Proud, Areithous' dreadful arms to wield;

Great Areithous, known from shore to shore,

By the huge, knotted, iron mace he bore; 170

No



No lance he shook, nor bent the twanging bow,  
But broke with this the battle of the foe.  
Him not by manly force Lycurgus slew,  
Whose guileful jav'lin from the thicket flew,  
Deep in a winding way his breast assail'd, 175  
Nor aught the warrior's thund'ring mace avail'd.  
Supine he fell : those arms which Mars before  
Had giv'n the vanquish'd, now the victor bore :  
But when old age had dim'd Lycurgus' eyes,  
To Ereuthalion he consign'd the prize. 180

Furious with this, he crush'd our level'd bands,  
And dar'd the trial of the strongest hands ;  
Nor could the strongest hands his fury stay ;  
All saw, and fear'd his huge tempestuous sway.  
Till I, the youngest of the host, appear'd, 185  
And, youngest, met whom all our army fear'd.  
I fought the chief : my arms Minerva crown'd :  
Prone fell the giant o'er a length of ground.  
What then he was, oh where your Nestor now !  
Not Hector's self should want an equal foe. 190

But warriors, you, that youthful vigour boast,  
The flow'r of Greece, th' examples of our host,  
Sprung from such fathers, who such numbers sway,  
Can you stand trembling, and desert the day ?

His warm reproofs the list'ning kings inflame ; 195  
And nine, the boldest of the Grecian name,  
Up-started fierce : but far before the rest  
The king of men advanc'd his dauntless breast :  
Then bold Tydides, great in arms appear'd ;  
And next his bulk gigantic Ajax rear'd : 200

Oileus follow'd ; Idomen was there,  
And Merion, dreadful as the God of war :  
With these Eurypylus and Thoas stand,  
And wise Ulysses clos'd the daring band :  
All these, alike inspir'd with noble rage, 205  
Demand the fight. To whom the Pylian sage :

Left thirst of glory your brave souls divide,  
What chiefs shall combat, let the lots decide.  
Whom heav'n shall chuse, be his the chance to raise  
His country's fame, his own immortal praise. 210

The lots produc'd, each hero signs his own ;  
Then in the gen'ral's helm the fates are thrown.

The



The people pray, with lifted eyes and hands,  
And vows like these ascend from all the bands.  
Grant, thou Almighty ! in whose hand is fate, 215  
A worthy champion for the Grecian state.  
This task let Ajax or Tydides prove,  
Or he, the king of kings, belov'd by Jove.

Old Nestor shook the casque. By heav'n inspir'd,  
Leap'd forth the lot of ev'ry Greek desir'd. 220  
This from the right to left the herald bears,  
Held out in order to the Grecian peers :  
Each to his rival yields the mark unknown,  
Till godlike Ajax finds the lot his own ;  
Surveys th' inscription with rejoicing eyes, 225  
Then casts before him, and with transport cries :

Warriors ! I claim the lot, and arm with joy ;  
Be mine the conquest of this chief of Troy.  
Now, while my brightest arms my limbs invest,  
To Saturn's son be all your vows addrest : 230  
But pray in secret, lest the foes should hear,  
And deem your pray'rs the mean effect of fear.  
Said I in secret ? No, your vows declare,  
In such a voice as fills the earth and air.  
Lives there a chief whom Ajax ought to dread, 235  
Ajax, in all the toils of battle bred ?  
From warlike Salamis I drew my birth,  
And born to combats, fear no force on earth.

He said. The troops, with elevated eyes,  
Implore the God whose thunder rends the skies. 240  
O father of mankind, superior lord !  
On lofty Ida's holy hill ador'd ;  
Who in the highest heav'n has fix'd thy throne,  
Supreme of Gods ! unbounded, and alone :  
Grant thou, that Telamon may bear away 245  
The praise and conquest of this doubtful day ;  
Or if illustrious Hector be thy care,  
That both may claim it, and that both may share.

Now Ajax brac'd his dazzling armour on ;  
Sheath'd in bright steel the giant warrior shone : 250  
He moves to combat with majestic pace ;  
So stalks in arms the grisly God of Thrace,  
When Jove to punish faithless men prepares,  
And gives whole nations to the waste of wars.



Thus march'd the chief, tremendous as a God; 255  
 Grimly he smil'd; earth trembled as he strode:  
 His massy jav'lin quiv'ring in his hand,  
 He stood, the bulwark of the Grecian band.  
 Thro' ev'ry Argive heart new transport ran;  
 All Troy stood trembling at the mighty man, 260  
 Ev'n Hector paus'd; and with new doubt oppress'd,  
 Felt his great heart suspended in his breast:  
 'Twas vain to seek retreat, and vain to fear;  
 Himself had challeng'd, and the foe drew near.

Stern Telamon behind his ample shield, 265  
 As from a brazen tow'r, o'erlook'd the field.  
 Huge was its orb, with sev'n thick folds o'ercast,  
 Of tough bull hides; of solid brass the last.  
 (The work of Tychius, who in Hylè dwell'd,  
 And in all arts of armoury excell'd) 270

This Ajax bore before his manly breast,  
 And threat'ning, thus his adverse chief address'd:  
 Hector! approach my arm, and singly know  
 What strength thou hast, and what the Grecian foe.  
 Achilles shuns the fight; yet some there are, 275  
 Not void of soul, and not unskill'd in war:

Let him, unactive, on the sea-beat shore,  
 Indulge his wrath, and aid our arms no more;  
 Whole troops of heroes Greece has yet to boast,  
 And sends thee one, a sample of her host. 280

Such as I am, I come to prove thy might;  
 No more—be sudden, and begin the fight.

O son of Telamon, thy country's pride!  
 (To Ajax thus the Trojan prince reply'd),  
 Me, as a boy or woman, wouldst thou fright, 285  
 New to the field, and trembling at the fight?

Thou meet'st a chief deserving of thy arms,  
 To combat born, and bred amidst alarms:  
 I know to shift my ground, remount the car,  
 Turn, charge, and answer ev'ry call of war; 290  
 To right, to left, the dext'rous lance I wield,  
 And bear thick battle on my sounding shield.  
 But open be our fight, and bold each blow;  
 I steal no conquest from a noble foe.

He said, and rising, high above the field, 295  
 Whirl'd the long lance against the sev'nfold shield.



Full, on the brags descending from above,  
 Thro' six bull-hides the furious weapon drove,  
 Till in the seventh it fix'd. Then Ajax threw;  
 Thro' Hector's shield the forceful jav'lin flew, 300  
 His corslet enters, and his garment rends,  
 And glancing downwards near his flank descends.  
 The wary Trojan shrinks, and bending low  
 Beneath his buckler, disappoints the blow.  
 From their bor'd shields the chiefs their jav'lins drew,  
 Then close impetuous, and the charge renew: 306  
 Fierce as the mountain lions bath'd in blood,  
 Or foaming boars the terror of the wood.  
 At Ajax Hector his long lance extends;  
 The blunted point against the buckler bends: 310  
 But Ajax, watchful as his foe drew near,  
 Drove thro' the Trojan targe the knotty spear;  
 It reach'd his neck, with matchless strength impell'd:  
 Spouts the black gore, and dims his shining shield.  
 Yet ceas'd not Hector thus; but, stooping down, 315  
 In his strong hand up heav'd a flinty stone,  
 Black, craggy, vast: to this his force he bends;  
 Full on the brazen boss the stone descends;  
 The hollow brags resounded with the shock.  
 Then Ajax seiz'd the fragment of a rock, 320  
 Apply'd each nerve, and swinging round on high,  
 With force tempestuous let the ruin fly:  
 The huge stone thund'ring thro' his buckler broke;  
 His slacken'd knees receiv'd the numbing stroke;  
 Great Hector falls extended on the field, 325  
 His bulk supporting on the shatter'd shield:  
 Nor wanted heav'nly aid: Apollo's might  
 Confirm'd his sinews, and restor'd to fight.  
 And now both heroes their broad faulchions drew:  
 In flaming circles round their heads they flew; 330  
 But then by heralds voice the word was giv'n,  
 The sacred ministers of earth and heav'n;  
 Divine Talthybius, whom the Greeks employ,  
 And sage Idæus, on the part of Troy,  
 Between their swords their peaceful sceptres rear'd; 335  
 And first Idæus' awful voice was heard.

Forbear, my sons! your farther force to prove,  
 Both dear to men, and both belov'd of Jove.

To



To either host your matchless worth is known, 340  
 Each sounds your praise, and war is all your own.  
 But now the night extends her awful shade;  
 The Goddess parts you : be the night obey'd.

To whom great Ajax his high soul express'd :  
 O sage ! to Hector be these words address'd : 345  
 Let him, who first provok'd our chiefs to fight,  
 Let him demand the sanction of the night ;  
 If first he ask it, I content obey,  
 And cease the strife when Hector shows the way.

Oh first of Greeks ! (this noble foe rejoin'd), 350 }  
 Whom heav'n adorns, superior to thy kind,  
 With strength of body, and with worth of mind ! }  
 Now martial law commands us to forbear ;  
 Hereafter we shall meet in glorious war :  
 Some future day shall lengthen out the strife, 355  
 And let the Gods decide of death or life !

Since then the night extends her gloomy shade,  
 And heav'n enjoins it, be the night obey'd.  
 Return, brave Ajax, to thy Grecian friends,  
 And joy the nations whom thy arm defends ; 360  
 As I shall glad each chief, and Trojan wife,  
 Who wearies heav'n with vows for Hector's life.  
 But let us, on this memorable day,  
 Exchange some gift ; that Greece and Troy may say,  
 " Not hate, but glory made these chiefs contend ; 365  
 " And each brave foe was in his soul a friend."

With that, a sword with stars of silver grac'd,  
 The baldric studded, and the sheath enchas'd,  
 He gave the Greek. The gen'rous Greek bestow'd  
 A radiant belt that rich with purple glow'd.  
 Then with majestic grace they quit the plain ; 370  
 This seeks the Grecian, that the Phrygian train.

The Trojan bands, returning Hector wait,  
 And hail with joy the champion of their state :  
 Escap'd great Ajax, they survey'd him round,  
 Alive, unharm'd, and vig'rous from his wound, 375  
 To Troy's high gates the godlike man they bear,  
 Their present triumph, as their late despair.

But Ajax, glorying in his hardy deed,  
 The well-arm'd Greeks to Agamemnon lead



A steer for sacrifice the king design'd, 380  
Of full five years, and of the nobler kind.

The victim falls ; they strip the smoking hide,  
The beast they quarter, and the joints divide ;  
Then spread the tables, the repast prepare,  
Each takes his seat, and each receives his share. 385

The king himself (an honorary sign)  
Before great Ajax plac'd the mighty chine.  
When now the rage of hunger was remov'd,  
Nestor, in each persuasive art approv'd,  
The sage, whose counsels long had sway'd the rest, 390  
In words like these his prudent thought express'd :

How dear, O kings ! this fatal day has cost,  
What Greeks are perish'd ! what a people lost !  
What tides of blood have drench'd Scamander's shore !  
What crouds of heroes sunk, to rise no more ! 395

Then hear me, chief ! nor let the morrow's light  
Awake thy squadrons to new toils of fight :  
Some space at least permit the war to breathe,  
While we to flames our slaughter'd friends bequeath.  
From the red field their scatter'd bodies bear, 400

And nigh the fleet a fun'ral structure rear ;  
So decent urns their snowy bones may keep,  
And pious children o'er their ashes weep.  
Here, where on one promiscuous pile they blaz'd,  
High o'er them all a gen'ral tomb be rais'd : 405

Next, to secure our camp, and naval pow'rs,  
Raise an embattled wall with lofty tow'rs ;  
From space to space be ample gates around,  
For passing chariots ; and a trench profound.  
So Greece to combat shall in safety go, 410  
Nor fear the fierce incursions of the foe.

'Twas thus the sage his wholesome counsel mov'd ;  
The sceptred kings of Greece his words approv'd.

Mean-while, conven'd at Priam's palace gate,  
The Trojan peers in nightly council sat : 415  
A senate void of order, as of choice ;

Their hearts were fearful, and confus'd their voice.  
Antenor rising, thus demands their ear :

Ye Trojans, Dardans, and auxiliars, hear !  
'Tis heav'n the counsel of my breast inspires, 420  
And I but move what ev'ry God requires :

Let



Let Sparta's treasures be this hour restor'd,  
And Argive Helen own her ancient lord.  
The ties of faith, the sworn alliance broke,  
Our impious battles the just Gods provoke. 425  
As this advice ye practise, or reject,  
So hope success, or dread the dire effect.

The senior spoke, and sat. To whom reply'd  
The graceful husband of the Spartan bride.  
Cold counsels, Trojan, may become thy years, 430  
But sound ungrateful in a warrior's ears :  
Old man, if, void of fallacy or art,  
Thy words express the purpose of thy heart,  
Thou, in thy time, more sound advice hast giv'n ;  
But wisdom has its date, assign'd by heav'n. 435  
Then hear me, princes of the Trojan name !  
Their treasures I'll restore, but not the dame ;  
My treasures too, for peace, I will resign ;  
But be this bright possession ever mine.

'Twas then the growing discord to compose, 440  
Slow from his seat the rev'rend Priam rose :  
His godlike aspect deep attention drew :  
He paus'd, and these pacific words ensue.

Ye Trojans, Dardans, and auxiliar bands !  
Now take refreshment as the hour demands ; 445  
Guard well the walls, relieve the watch of night,  
Till the new sun restore the cheerful light :  
Then shall our herald to th' Atrides sent,  
Before their ships proclaim my son's intent.  
Next let a truce be ask'd, that Troy may burn 450  
Her slaughter'd heroes, and their bones inurn ;  
That done, once more the fate of war be try'd,  
And whose the conquest, mighty Jove decide !

The monarch spoke : the warriors snatch'd with haste  
(Each at his post in arms) a short repast. 455  
Soon as the rosy morn had wak'd the day,  
To the black ships Idæus bent his way ;  
There, to the sons of Mars, in council found,  
He rais'd his voice ; the host stood list'ning round.  
Ye sons of Atreus, and ye Greeks, give ear ! 460  
The words of Troy, and Troy's great monarch hear.  
Pleas'd may ye hear (so heav'n succeed my pray'rs)  
What Paris, author of the war, declares.



The spoils and treasures he to Ilion bore,  
(Oh had he perish'd ere they touch'd our shore), 465  
He proffers injur'd Greece, with large increase  
Of added Trojan wealth, to buy the peace;  
But to restore the beauteous bride again,  
This Greece demands, and Troy requests in vain.  
Next, O ye chiefs! we ask a truce to burn 470  
Our slaughter'd heroes, and their bones inurn.  
That done, once more the fate of war be try'd,  
And whose the conquest, mighty Jove decide!

The Greeks gave ear, but none the silence broke;  
At length Tydides rose, and rising spoke. 475  
Oh, take not, friends! defrauded of your fame,  
Their proffer'd wealth, nor ev'n the Spartan dame.  
Let conquest make them ours: fate shakes their wall,  
And Troy already totters to her fall.

Th' admiring chiefs and all the Grecian name, 480  
With gen'ral shouts return'd him loud acclaim.  
Then thus the king of kings rejects the peace;  
Herald! in him thou hear'st the voice of Greece.  
For what remains; let fun'ral flames be fed  
With heroes corpse: I war not with the dead: 485  
Go search your slaughter'd chiefs on yonder plain,  
And gratify the manes of the slain.  
Be witness, Jove, whose thunder rolls on high!  
He said, and rear'd his sceptre to the sky.

To sacred Troy, where all her princes lay 490  
To wait th' event, the herald bent his way.  
He came, and standing in the midst, explain'd  
The peace rejected, but the truce obtain'd.  
Straight to their sev'ral cares the Trojans move, 494  
Some search the plains, some fell the sounding grove:  
Nor less the Greeks, descending on the shore,  
Hew'd the green forests and the bodies bore.  
And now from forth the chambers of the main,  
To shed his sacred light on earth again,  
Arose the golden chariot of the day, 500  
And tipt the mountains with a purple ray.  
In mingled throngs the Greek and Trojan train  
Through heaps of carnage search'd the mournful plain.  
Scarce could the friend his slaughter'd friend explore,  
With dust dishonour'd, and deform'd with gore. 505

The



The wounds they wash'd, their pious tears they shed,  
And, laid along their cars, deplor'd the dead.  
Sage Priam check'd their grief: with silent haste  
The bodies decent on the piles were plac'd:  
With melting hearts the cold remains they burn'd; 510  
And sadly slow, to sacred Troy return'd.  
Nor less the Greeks their pious sorrows shed,  
And decent on the pile dispose the dead;  
The cold remains consume with equal care;  
And slowly, sadly, to their fleet repair. 515  
Now ere the morn had streak'd with redd'ning light  
The doubtful confines of the day and night;  
About the dying flames the Greeks appear'd,  
And round the pile a gen'ral tomb they rear'd.  
Then to secure the camp and naval pow'rs,  
They rais'd embattled walls with lofty tow'rs: 520  
From space to space were ample gates around,  
For passing chariots; and a trench profound,  
Of large extent; and deep in earth, below,  
Strong piles infix'd, stood adverse to the foe. 525  
So toil'd the Greeks: mean-while the Gods above,  
In shining circle round their father Jove,  
Amaz'd, beheld the wondrous works of man:  
Then he, whose trident shakes the earth, began:  
What mortals henceforth shall our pow'r adore, 530  
Our fanes frequent, our oracles implore,  
If the proud Grecians thus successful boast  
Their rising bulwarks on the sea-beat coast?  
See the long walls extending to the main,  
No God consulted, and no victim slain! 535  
Their fame shall fill the world's remotest ends;  
Wide, as the morn, her golden beam extends:  
While old Laomedon's divine abodes,  
Those radiant structures rais'd by lab'ring Gods,  
Shall, raz'd and lost, in long oblivion sleep: 540  
Thus spoke the hoary monarch of the deep.  
Th' Almighty thund'rer with a frown replies,  
That clouds the world, and blackens half the skies:  
Strong God of Ocean! thou, whose rage can make  
The solid earth's eternal basis shake! 545  
What cause of fear from mortal works could move  
The meanest subject of our realms above?

Where:



Where-e'er the sun's refulgent rays are cast,  
 Thy pow'r is honour'd, and thy fame shall last.  
 But yon proud work no future age shall view, 550  
 No trace remain where once the glory grew:  
 The sapp'd foundations by thy force shall fall,  
 And, whelm'd beneath thy waves, drop the huge wall:  
 Vast drifts of sand shall change the former shore;  
 The ruin vanish'd, and the name no more. 555

Thus they in heav'n: while, o'er the Grecian train,  
 The rolling sun descending to the main  
 Beheld the finish'd work. Their bulls they flew;  
 Black from the tents the fav'ry vapours flew.  
 And now the fleet, arriv'd from Lemnos' strands, 560  
 With Bacchus' blessings cheer'd the gen'rous bands,  
 Of fragrant wines the rich Eunæus sent  
 A thousand measures to the royal tent;  
 (Eunæus, whom Hypsipyle of yore  
 To Jason, shepherd of his people, bore.) 565  
 The rest they purchas'd at their proper cost,  
 And well the plenteous freight supply'd the host:  
 Each, in exchange, proportion'd treasures gave:  
 Some brags, or iron; some an ox, or slave.  
 All night they feast, the Greek and Trojan pow'rs; 570  
 Those on the fields, and these within their tow'rs.  
 But Jove, averse the signs of wrath display'd,  
 And shot red lightnings through the gloomy shade:  
 Humbled they stood; pale horror seiz'd on all,  
 While the deep thunder shook th' aëreal hall. 575  
 Each pour'd to Jove, before the bowl was crown'd;  
 And large libations drench'd the thirsty ground:  
 Then late, refresh'd with sleep from toils of fight,  
 Enjoy'd the balmy blessings of the night.



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K VIII.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The second battle, and the distress of the Greeks.

*Jupiter assembles a council of the deities, and threatens them with the pains of Tartarus, if they assist either side: Minerva only obtains of him that she may direct the Greeks by her counsels. The armies join battle: Jupiter on mount Ida weighs in his balances the fates of both, and affrights the Greeks with his thunders and lightnings. Nestor alone continues in the field in great danger. Diomed relieves him; whose exploits, and those of Hector, are excellently described. Juno endeavours to animate Neptune to the assistance of the Greeks, but in vain. The acts of Teucer, who is at length wounded by Hector, and carried off. Juno and Minerva prepare to aid the Grecians, but are restrained by Iris, sent from Jupiter. The night puts an end to the battle. Hector continues in the field, (the Greeks being driven to their fortification before the ships), and gives orders to keep the watch all night in the camp, to prevent the enemy from re-embarking and escaping by flight. They kindle fires through all the field, and pass the night under arms.*

*The time of seven and twenty days is employed from the opening of the poem to the end of this book. The scene here (except of the celestial machines) lies in the field toward the sea shore.*

**A** Urora now, fair daughter of the dawn,  
Sprinkled with rosy light the dewy lawn,  
When Jove conven'd the senate of the skies,  
Where high Olympus' cloudy tops arise.

The



The fire of Gods his awful silence broke ; 5  
 The heav'ns, attentive, trembled as he spoke :  
 Celestial states, immortal Gods ! give ear,  
 Hear our decree, and rev'rence what ye hear ;  
 The fix'd decree, which not all heav'n can move ;  
 Thou fate ! fulfil it ; and, ye pow'rs ! approve ! 10  
 What God but enters yon forbidden field,  
 Who yields assistance, or but wills to yield ;  
 Back to the skies with shame he shall be driv'n,  
 Gash'd with dishonest wounds, the scorn of heav'n :  
 Or far, oh far from steep Olympus thrown, 15  
 Low in the dark Tartarean gulph shall groan,  
 With burning chains fix'd to the brazen floors,  
 And lock'd by hell's inexorable doors ;  
 As deep beneath th' infernal centre hurl'd,  
 As from that center to th' æthereal world. 20  
 Let him who tempts me, dread those dire abodes ;  
 And know, th' Almighty is the God of Gods.  
 League all your forces then, ye pow'rs above,  
 Join all, and try th' omnipotence of Jove :  
 Let down our golden everlasting chain, 25  
 Whose strong embrace holds heav'n and earth, and main :  
 Strive all, of mortal and immortal birth,  
 To drag, by this, the Thund'rer down to earth :  
 Ye strive in vain ! If I but stretch this hand,  
 I heave the Gods, the ocean, and the land ; 30  
 I fix the chain to great Olympus' height,  
 And the vast world hangs trembling in my fight !  
 For such I reign, unbounded and above ;  
 And such are men, and Gods, compar'd to Jove.  
 Th' Almighty spoke, nor durst the pow'rs reply, 35  
 A rev'rend horror silenc'd all the sky ;  
 Trembling they stood before their sov'reign's look ;  
 At length his best belov'd, the pow'r of wisdom, spoke.  
 Oh first and greatest ! God, by Gods ador'd !  
 We own thy might, our father and our lord ? 40  
 But ah ! permit to pity human state ;  
 If not to help, at least lament their fate.  
 From fields forbidden we submit refrain,  
 With arms unaiding mourn our Argives slain ;  
 Yet grant my counsels still their breasts may move, 45  
 Or all must perish in the wrath of Jove.

The



The cloud-compelling God her suit approv'd,  
 And smil'd superior on his best belov'd.  
 Then call'd his courfers, and his chariot took;  
 The stedfast firmament beneath them shook: 50  
 Rapt by th' æthereal steeds the chariot roll'd;  
 Brass were their hoofs, their curling manes of gold.  
 Of heav'n's undrossy gold the God's array,  
 Refulgent, flash'd intolerable day.  
 High on the throne he shines: his courfers fly 55  
 Between th' extended earth and starry sky.  
 But when to Ida's topmost height he came,  
 (Fair nurse of fountains, and of savage game),  
 Where o'er her pointed summits proudly rais'd,  
 His fane breath'd odours, and his altars blaz'd: 60  
 There, from his radiant car, the sacred fire  
 Of Gods and men releas'd the steeds of fire:  
 Blue ambient mists th' immortal steeds embrac'd;  
 High on the cloudy point his seat he plac'd;  
 Thence his broad eye the subject world surveys, 65  
 The towns, and tents, and navigable seas.  
 Now had the Grecians snatch'd a short repast,  
 And buckled on their shining arms with haste.  
 Troy rous'd as soon; for on this dreadful day  
 The fate of fathers, wives, and infants lay. 70  
 The gates unfolding pour forth all their train;  
 Squadrons on squadrons cloud the dusky plain;  
 Men, steeds, and chariots, shake the trembling ground;  
 The tumult thickens, and the skies resound.  
 And now with shouts the shocking armies clos'd, 75  
 To lances lances, shields to shields oppos'd,  
 Host against host with shadowy legions drew,  
 The sounding darts in iron tempests flew,  
 Victors and vanquish'd join promiscuous cries,  
 Triumphant shouts and dying groans arise; 80  
 With streaming blood the slipp'ry fields are dy'd,  
 And slaughter'd heroes swell the dreadful tide.  
 Long as the morning-beams increasing bright,  
 O'er heav'n's clear azure spread the sacred light;  
 Commutual death the fate of war confounds, 85  
 Each adverse battle gor'd with equal wounds.  
 But when th' sun the height of heav'n ascends;  
 The fire of Gods his golden scale suspends.

With



With equal hand ; in these explor'd the fate  
 Of Greece and Troy, and pois'd the mighty weight. 90  
 Press'd with its load, the Grecian balance lies  
 Low sunk on earth, the Trojan strike the skies.  
 Then Jove from Ida's top his horrors spreads ;  
 The clouds burst dreadful o'er the Grecian heads ;  
 Thick lightnings flash ; the mutt'ring thunder rolls : 95  
 Their strength he withers, and unmans their souls.  
 Before his wrath the trembling hosts retire ;  
 The God in terrors, and the skies on fire.  
 Nor great Idomeneus that fight could bear,  
 Nor each stern Ajax, thunderbolts of war : 100  
 Nor he, the king of men, th' alarm sustain'd ;  
 Nestor alone amidst the storm remain'd.  
 Unwilling he remain'd, for Paris' dart  
 Had pierc'd his courser in a mortal part ;  
 Fix'd in the forehead where the springing mane 105  
 Curl'd o'er the brow, it stung him to the brain :  
 Mad with his anguish, he begins to rear,  
 Paw with his hoofs aloft, and lash the air.  
 Scarce had his faulchion cut the reins, and freed  
 Th' incumber'd chariot from the dying steed, 110  
 When dreadful Hector, thund'ring thro' the war,  
 Pour'd to the tumult on his whirling car.  
 That day had stretch'd beneath his matchless hand  
 The hoary monarch of the Pylian band,  
 But Diomed beheld ; from forth the croud 115  
 He rush'd, and on Ulysses call'd aloud :  
 Whither, oh whither does Ulysses run ?  
 Oh flight unworthy great Laertes' son !  
 Mix'd with the vulgar shall thy fate be found,  
 Pierc'd in the back, a vile, dishonest wound ! 120  
 Oh turn and save from Hector's direful rage  
 The glory of the Greeks, the Pylian sage.  
 His fruitless words are lost unheard in air ;  
 Ulysses seeks the ships, and shelters there.  
 But bold Tydides to the rescue goes, 125  
 A single warrior 'midst a host of foes ;  
 Before the couriers with a sudden spring  
 He leap'd, and anxious thus bespoke the king :  
 Great perils, father ! wait th' unequal fight ;  
 These younger champions will oppress thy might. 130

Thy



Thy veins no more with ancient vigour glow,  
 Weak is thy servant, and thy courfers flow.  
 Then haste, ascend my seat, and from the car  
 Observe the steeds of Tros, renown'd in war,  
 Practis'd alike to turn, to stop, to chace,  
 To dare the fight, or urge the rapid race :  
 These late obey'd Æneas' guiding rein ;  
 Leave thou thy chariot to our faithful train :  
 With these against yon Trojans will we go,  
 Nor shall Great Hector want an equal foe ;  
 Fierce as he is, ev'n he may learn to fear  
 The thirsty fury of my flying spear.

135

140

Thus said the chief ; and Nestor, skill'd in war,  
 Approves his counsel, and ascends the car ;  
 The steeds he left, their trusty servants hold ;  
 Eurymedon, and Sthenelus the bold.

145

The rev'rend charioteer directs the course,  
 And strains his aged arm to lash the horse.  
 Hector they face ; unknowing how to fear,  
 Fierce he drove on ; Tydides whirl'd his spear.

150

The spear, with erring haste, mistook its way,  
 But plung'd in Eniopeus' bosom lay.  
 His opening hand in death forsakes the rein ;  
 The steeds fly back : he falls, and spurns the plain.

155

Great Hector sorrows for his servant kill'd,  
 Yet unreveng'd permits to press the field ;  
 Till, to supply his place and rule the car,  
 Rose Archeptolemus, the fierce in war.

And now had death and horror cover'd all ;  
 Like tim'rous flocks the Trojans in their wall  
 Inclos'd had bled : but Jove with awful sound  
 Roll'd the big thunder o'er the vast profound :

160

Full in Tydides' face the light'ning flew ;  
 The ground before him flam'd with sulphur blue ;  
 The quiv'ring steeds fell prostrate at the sight ;  
 And Nestor's trembling hand confess'd his fright ;  
 He dropt the reins ; and shook with sacred dread,  
 Thus, turning, warn'd th' intrepid Diomed.

165

O chief ! too daring in thy friend's defence,  
 Retire advis'd, and urge the chariot hence.  
 This day, averse, the sov'reign of the skies  
 Assists Great Hector, and our palm denies,

170



Some other son may see the happier hour,  
 When Greece shall conquer by his heav'nly pow'r.  
 'Tis not in man his fix'd decree to move :  
 The great will glory to submit to Jove.

175

O rev'rend prince ! (Tydides thus replies),  
 Thy years are awful, and thy words are wise.  
 But ah, what grief ! should haughty Hector boast,  
 I fled inglorious to the guarded coast.

180

Before that dire disgrace shall blast my fame,  
 O'erwhelm me, earth ! and hide a warrior's shame.

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus reply'd :

Gods ! can thy courage fear the Phrygian's pride ?

Hector may vaunt, but who shall heed the boast ?

185

Not those who felt thy arm, the Dardan host,

Nor Troy, yet bleeding in her heroes lost ;

Not ev'n a Phrygian dame, who dreads the sword

That laid in dust her lov'd lamented lord.

He said, and hasty, o'er the gasping throng

190

Drives the swift steeds ; the chariot smokes along.

The shouts of Trojans thicken in the wind ;

The storm of hissing jav'ins pours behind.

Then with a voice that shakes the solid skies,

Pleas'd Hector braves the warrior as he flies.

195

Go, mighty hero ! grac'd above the rest

In seats of council and the sumptuous feast :

Now hope no more those honours from thy train :

Go, less than woman in the form of man !

To scale our walls, to wrap our tow'rs in flames,

200

To lead in exile the fair Phrygian dames,

Thy once proud hopes, presumptuous prince ! are fled ;

This arm shall reach thy heart, and stretch thee dead.

Now fears dissuade him, and now hopes invite,

To stop his couriers, and to stand the fight ;

205

Thrice turn'd the chief, and thrice imperial Jove

On Ida's summits thunder'd from above.

Great Hector heard ; he saw the flashing light,

(The sign of conquest), and thus urg'd the fight.

Hear, ev'ry Trojan, Lycian, Dardan band,

210

All fam'd in war, and dreadful hand to hand.

Be mindful of the wreaths your arms have won,

Your great forefathers glories, and your own.

Heard



Heard ye the voice of Jove? Success and fame  
 Await on Troy, on Greece eternal shame. 215  
 In vain they sculk behind their boasted wall,  
 Weak bulwarks! destin'd by this arm to fall.  
 High o'er their slighted trench our steeds shall bound,  
 And pass victorious o'er the levell'd mound.  
 Soon as before yon hollow ships we stand, 220  
 Fight each with flames, and toss the blazing brand;  
 Till their proud navy wrapt in smoke and fires,  
 All Greece, encompass'd, in one blaze expires.

Furious he said; then bending o'er the yoke,  
 Encourag'd his proud steeds, while thus he spoke: 225  
 Now Xanthus, Æthon, Lampus! urge the chace,  
 And thou, Podargus! prove thy gen'rous race:  
 Be fleet, be fearless, this important day,  
 And all your master's well-spent care repay.  
 For this, high-fed in plenteous stalls ye stand, 230  
 Serv'd with pure wheat, and by a princess' hand;  
 For this my spouse, of great Aëtion's line,  
 So oft has steep'd the strength'ning grain in wine.  
 Now swift pursue; now thunder uncontroll'd;  
 Give me to seize rich Nestor's shield of gold; 235  
 From Tydeus' shoulder strip the costly load,  
 Vulcanian arms, the labour of a God:

These if we gain, then victory, ye pow'rs!  
 This night; this glorious night, the fleet is ours.  
 That heard, deep anguish stung Saturnia's soul; 240  
 She shook her throne that shook the starry pole:  
 And thus to Neptune: Thou, whose force can make  
 The steadfast earth from her foundation shake,  
 Seest thou the Greeks by fates unjust oppress'd,  
 Nor swells thy heart in that immortal breast? 245

Yet Ægæ, Helicè, thy pow'r obey,  
 And gifts unceasing on thine altars lay.  
 Would all the deities of Greece combine,  
 In vain the gloomy Thund'rer might repine:  
 Sole should he sit, with scarce a God to friend, 250  
 And see his Trojans to the shades descend:  
 Such be the scene from his Idæan bow'r;  
 Ungrateful prospect to the sullen pow'r!

Neptune with wrath rejects the rash design:  
 What rage, what madness, furious queen! is thine? 255



I war not with the Highest. All above  
Submit and tremble at the hand of Jove.

Now godlike Hector, to whose matchless might  
Jove gave the glory of the destin'd fight,  
Squadrons on squadrons drives, and fills the fields 260  
With close-rang'd chariots, and with thicken'd shields.  
Where the deep trench in length extended lay  
Compacted troops stand wedg'd in firm array,  
A dreadful front! they shake the brands, and threat  
With long-destroying flames the hostile fleet. 265  
The king of men, by Juno's self inspir'd,  
Toil'd thro' the tents, and all his army fir'd.  
Swift as he mov'd, he lifted in his hand  
His purple robe, bright ensign of command.  
High on the midmost bark the king appear'd; 270  
There, from Ulysses' deck, his voice was heard.  
To Ajax and Achilles reach'd the sound,  
Whose distant ships the guarded navy bound.  
Oh Argives! shame of human race; he cry'd,  
(The hollow vessels to his voice reply'd); 275  
Where now are all your glorious boasts of yore,  
Your hasty triumphs on the Lennian shore?  
Each fearless hero dares an hundred foes,  
While the feast lasts, and while the goblet flows;  
But who to meet one martial man is found, 280  
When the fight rages, and the flames surround?  
O mighty Jove! oh fire of the distress'd!  
Was ever king like me, like me oppress'd?  
With pow'r immense, with justice arm'd in vain;  
My glory ravish'd, and my people slain! 285  
To thee my vows were breath'd from ev'ry shore;  
What altar smok'd not with our victims gore?  
With fat of bulls I fed the constant flame,  
And ask'd destruction to the Trojan name.  
Now, gracious God! far humbler our demand; 290  
Give these at least to 'scape from Hector's hand,  
And save the relics of the Grecian land!

Thus pray'd the king, and heav'n's great father heard  
His vows, in bitterness of soul preferr'd;  
The wrath appeas'd, by happy signs declares, 295  
And gives the people to their monarch's pray'rs.

His



His eagle, sacred bird of heav'n! he sent,  
 A fawn his talons trusts'd, (divine portent)!  
 High o'er the wond'ring hosts he soar'd above,  
 Who paid their vows to Panomphæan Jove; 300  
 Then let the prey before his altar fall;  
 The Greeks beheld, and transport seiz'd on all:  
 Encourag'd by the sign, the troops revive,  
 And fierce on Troy with doubled fury drive.  
 Tydides first, of all the Grecian force, 305  
 O'er the broad ditch impell'd his foaming horse,  
 Pierc'd the deep ranks, their strongest battle tore,  
 And dy'd his jav'lin red with Trojan gore.  
 Young Agelaüs (Phradmon was his sire)  
 With flying coursers shunn'd his dreadful ire: 310  
 Struck thro' the back, the Phrygian fell oppress'd;  
 The dart drove on, and issu'd at his breast:  
 Headlong he quits the car; his arms resound:  
 His pond'rous buckler thunders on the ground.  
 Forth rush a tide of Greeks, the passage freed; 315  
 Th' Atridæ first, th' Ajaces next succeed:  
 Meriones, like Mars, in arms renown'd,  
 And godlike Idomen, now pass'd the mound;  
 Evæmon's son next issues to the foe,  
 And last, young Teucer with his bended bow. 320  
 Secure behind the Telamonian shield,  
 The skilful archer wide survey'd the field,  
 With ev'ry shaft some hostile victim slew,  
 Then close beneath the sevenfold orb withdrew:  
 The conscious infant so, when fear alarms, 325  
 Retires for safety to the mother's arms.  
 Thus Ajax guards his brother in the field,  
 Moves as he moves, and turns the shining shield.  
 Who first by Teucer's mortal arrows bled?  
 Orsilochns; then fell Ormenus dead: 330  
 The godlike Lycophon next press'd the plain,  
 With Chromius, Dætor, Ophelestes slain:  
 Bold Homopæon breathless sunk to ground;  
 The bloody pile great Melanippus crown'd.  
 Heaps fell on heaps, sad trophies of his art, 335  
 A Trojan ghost attending ev'ry dart,  
 Great Agamemnon views with joyful eye  
 The ranks grow thinner as his arrows fly:



Oh youth for ever dear ! (the monarch cry'd,  
 Thus, always thus, thy early worth be try'd ; 340  
 Thy brave example shall retrieve our host,  
 Thy country's saviour, and thy father's boast!  
 Sprung from an alien's bed thy fire to grace,  
 The vig'rous offspring of a stol'n embrace,  
 Proud of his boy, he own'd the gen'rous flame, 345  
 And the brave son repays his cares with fame.  
 Now hear a monarch's vow : If heav'n's high pow'rs  
 Give me to raze Troy's long defended tow'rs ;  
 Whatever treasures Greece for me design,  
 The next rich honorary gift be thine : 350  
 Some golden tripod, or distinguish'd car,  
 With coursers dreadful in the ranks of war ;  
 Or some fair captive whom thy eyes approve,  
 Shall recompence the warrior's toils with love.

To this the chief: With praise the rest inspire, 355  
 Nor urge a soul already fill'd with fire,  
 What strength I have, be now in battle try'd,  
 Till ev'ry shaft in Phrygian blood be dy'd.  
 Since rallying from our wall we forc'd the foe,  
 Still aim'd at Hector have I bent my bow : 360  
 Eight forky arrows from this hand have fled,  
 And eight bold heroes by their points lie dead :  
 But sure some God denies me to destroy  
 This fury of the field, this dog of Troy.

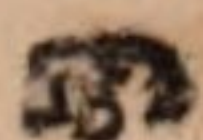
He said, and twang'd the string. The weapon flies  
 At Hector's breast, and sings along the skies : 366  
 He miss'd the mark ; but pierc'd Gorgythio's heart,  
 And drench'd in royal blood the thirsty dart.  
 (Fair Castianira, nymph of form divine,  
 This offspring added to King Priam's line). 370  
 As full-blown poppies, overcharg'd with rain,  
 Decline the head, and drooping kiss the plain ;  
 So sinks the youth : his beauteous head, deprest  
 Beneath his helmet, drops upon his breast.  
 Another shaft the raging archer drew : 375  
 That other shaft with erring fury flew,  
 (From Hector Phœbus turn'd the flying wound) ;  
 Yet fell not dry or guiltless to the ground :  
 Thy breast, brave Archeptolemus ! it tore,  
 And dipp'd its feathers in no vulgar gore. 380

Headlong



Headlong he falls ; his sudden fall alarms  
 The steeds, that startle at his sounding arms.  
 Hector with grief his charioteer beheld,  
 All pale and breathless on the sanguine field.  
 Then bids Cebriones direct the rein, 385  
 Quits his bright car, and issues on the plain.  
 Dreadful he shouts : from earth a stone he took,  
 And rush'd on Teucer with the lifted rock :  
 The youth already strain'd the forceful yew ;  
 The shaft already to his shoulder drew ; 390  
 The feather in his hand, just wing'd for flight,  
 Touch'd where the neck and hallow chest unite ;  
 There, where the juncture knits the channel bone,  
 The furious chief discharg'd the craggy stone :  
 The bow-string burst beneath the pond'rous blow, 395  
 And his numb'd hand dismiss'd his useless bow.  
 He fell : but Ajax his broad shield display'd,  
 And screen'd his brother with a mighty shade ;  
 Till great Alastor and Mecistheus bore  
 The batter'd archer groaning to the shore. 400  
 Troy yet found grace before th' Olympian fire,  
 He arm'd their hands, and fill'd their breasts with fire.  
 The Greeks, repuls'd, retreat behind their wall,  
 Or in the trench on heaps confus'dly fall.  
 First of the foe, great Hector march'd along, 405  
 With terror cloth'd, and more than mortal strong.  
 As the bold hound, that gives the lion chace,  
 With beating bosom, and with eager pace,  
 Hangs on his haunch, or fastens on his heels,  
 Guards as he turns, and circles as he wheels : 410  
 Thus oft the Grecians turn'd, but still they flew ;  
 Thus following Hector still the hindmost flew.  
 When flying they had pass'd the trench profound,  
 And many a chief lay gasping on the ground ;  
 Before the ships a desp'rate stand they made, 415  
 And fir'd the troops, and call'd the Gods to aid,  
 Fierce on his rattling chariot Hector came ;  
 His eyes like Gorgon shot a sanguine flame  
 That wither'd all their host : like Mars he stood,  
 Dire as the monster, dreadful as the God ! 420  
 Their strong distress the wife of Jove survey'd ;  
 Then pensive thus, to war's triumphant maid :  
 Oh





Oh daughter of that God, whose arm can wield  
 Th' avenging bolt, and shake the fable shield !  
 Now, in this moment of her last despair, 425  
 Shall wretched Greece no more confess our care,  
 Condemn'd to suffer the full force of fate,  
 And drain the dregs of heav'n's relentless hate ?  
 Gods ! shall one raging hand thus level all ?  
 What numbers fell ? what numbers yet shall fall ? 430  
 What pow'r divine shall Hector's wrath assuage ?  
 Still swells the slaughter, and still grows the rage !

So spake th' imperial regent of the skies ;  
 To whom the Goddess with the azure eyes :  
 Long since had Hector stain'd these fields with gore, 435  
 Stretch'd by some Argive on his native shore ;  
 But he above, the fire of heav'n, withstands,  
 Mocks our attempts, and flights our just demands.  
 The stubborn God, inflexible and hard,  
 Forgets my service and deserv'd reward : 440  
 Sav'd I, for this, his fav'rite \* son distress'd,  
 By stern Euristheus with long labours press'd ?  
 He begg'd, with tears he begg'd, in deep dismay ;  
 I shot from heav'n, and gave his arm the day.  
 Oh had my wisdom known this dire event, 445  
 When to grim Pluto's gloomy gates he went ;  
 The triple dog had never felt his chain,  
 Nor Styx been cross'd, nor hell explor'd in vain.  
 Averse to me of all his heav'n of Gods,  
 At Thetis' suit the partial Thund'rer nods, 450  
 To grace her gloomy, fierce, resenting son,  
 My hopes are frustrate, and my Greeks undone.  
 Some future day, perhaps, he may be mov'd  
 To call his blue-ey'd maid his best belov'd.  
 Haste, launch thy chariot, thro' yon ranks to ride : 455  
 Myself will arm, and thunder at thy side.  
 Then Goddess ! say, shall Hector glory then,  
 (That terror of the Greeks, that man of men).  
 When Juno's self, and Pallas shall appear,  
 All dreadful in the crimson walks of war ? 460  
 What mighty Trojan then, on yonder shore,  
 Expiring, pale, and terrible no more,  
 Shall feast the fowls, and glut the dogs with gore ?

\* Hercules.

She



She ceas'd, and Juno rein'd the steeds with care;  
(Heav'n's awful empress, Saturn's other heir). 465

Pallas, mean-while, her various veil unbound,  
With flow'rs adorn'd, with art immortal crown'd;

The radiant robe her sacred fingers wove  
Floats in rich waves, and spreads the court of Jove.

Her father's arms her mighty limbs invest, 470  
His cuirass blazes on her ample breast.

The vig'rous pow'r the trembling car ascends;  
Shook by her arm, the massy jav'lin bends;

Huge, pond'rous, strong! that when her fury burns,  
Proud tyrants humbles, and whole hosts o'erturns. 475

Saturnia lends the lash; the courfers fly;  
Smooth glides the chariot thro' the liquid sky.

Heav'n's gates spontaneous open to the pow'rs,  
Heav'n's golden gates, kept by the winged hours.

Commission'd, in alternate watch they stand, 480  
The sun's bright portals and the skies command;

Close, or unfold th' eternal gates of day,  
Bar heav'n with clouds, or roll those clouds away,

The sounding hinges ring, the clouds divide;  
Prone down the steep of heav'n their course they guide.

But Jove incens'd, from Ida's top survey'd, 486  
And thus enjoin'd the many colour'd maid:

Thaumantia! mount the winds, and stop their car;  
Against the highest, who shall wage the war?

If furious yet they dare the vain debate, 490  
Thus have I spoke, and what I speak is fate.

Their courfers crush'd beneath the wheels shall lie,  
Their car in fragments scatter'd o'er the sky;

My lightning these rebellious shall confound,  
And hurl them flaming, headlong to the ground, 495

Condemn'd for ten revolving years to weep  
The wounds impress'd by burning thunder deep.

So shall Minerva learn to fear our ire,  
Nor dare to combat hers and nature's fire,

For Juno, headstrong and imperious still, 500  
She claims some title to transgress our will.

Swift as the wind, the various-colour'd maid  
From Ida's top her golden wings display'd;

To great Olympus' shining gates she flies,  
There meets the chariot rushing down the skies, 505

Restrains



Restrains their progress from the bright abodes,  
And speaks the mandate of the fire of Gods.

What frenzy, Goddesses ! what rage can move  
Celestial minds to tempt the wrath of Jove ?  
Desist, obedient to his high command ; 510

This is his word, and know his word shall stand.  
His lightning your rebellion shall confound,  
And hurl you headlong, flaming to the ground :  
Your horses crush'd beneath the wheels shall lie,  
Your car in fragments scatter'd o'er the sky ; 515  
Yourself condemn'd ten rolling years to weep  
The wounds impress'd by burning thunder deep.

So shall Minerva learn to fear his ire,  
Nor dare to combat hers and nature's fire.  
For Juno, headstrong and imperious still, 520  
She claims some title to transgress his will ;  
But thee what desp'rate insolence has driv'n,  
To lift thy lance against the king of heav'n ?

Then mounting on the pinions of the wind  
She flew ; and Juno thus her rage resign'd. 525

O daughter of that God, whose arm can wield  
Th' avenging bolt, and shake the dreadful shield !  
No more let beings of superior birth  
Contend with Jove for this low race of earth :  
Triumphant now, now miserably slain, 530  
They breathe or perish as the fates ordain.  
But Jove's high counsels full effect shall find,  
And ever constant, ever rule mankind.

She spoke, and backward turn'd her steeds of light,  
Adorn'd with manes of gold, and heav'nly bright. 535  
The hours unloos'd them, panting as they stood,  
And heap'd their mangers with ambrosial food.  
There ty'd, they rest in high celestial stalls ;  
The chariot propt against the crystal walls.  
The pensive Goddesses, abash'd, controll'd, 540  
Mix with the Gods, and fill their seats of gold.

And now the thund'rer meditates his flight  
From Ida's summit to th' Olympian height.  
Swifter than thought the wheels instinctive fly,  
Flame thro' the vast of air, and reach the sky. 545  
'Twas Neptune's charge his coursers to embrace,  
And fix the car on its immortal base ;

There



There stood the chariot, beaming forth its rays,  
Till with a snowy veil he screen'd the blaze.

He, whose all-conscious eyes the world behold,  
Th' eternal Thunderer, sat thron'd in gold.

550

High heav'n the footstool of his feet he makes,  
And wide beneath him, all Olympus shakes.

Trembling afar th' offending pow'rs appear'd,  
Confus'd and silent, for his frown they fear'd.

555

He saw their soul, and thus his word imparts :  
Pallas and Juno ! say, why heave your hearts ?

Soon was your battle o'er : proud Troy retir'd  
Before your face, and in your wrath expir'd.

But know, whoe'er almighty power withstand !  
Unmatch'd our force, unconquer'd is our hand :

560

Who shall the sov'reign of the skies controul ?  
Not all the Gods that crown the starry pole.

Your hearts shall tremble, if our arms we take,  
And each immortal nerve with horror shake,

565

For thus I speak, and what I speak shall stand ;  
What power foe'er provokes our lifted hand,

On this our hill no more shall hold his place,  
Cut off, and exil'd from th' æthereal race.

Juno and Pallas grieving hear the doom,  
But feast their souls on Ilion's woes to come.

570

Tho' secret anger swell'd Minerva's breast,  
The prudent Goddess yet her wrath repress :

But Juno, impotent of rage, replies :

What hast thou said, oh tyrant of the skies !

575

Strength and omnipotence invest thy throne ;

'Tis thine to punish ; ours to grieve alone.

For Greece we grieve, abandon'd by her fate,

To drink the dregs of thy unmeasur'd hate :

From fields forbidden we submit refrain,

580

With arms unaiding see our Argives slain ;

Yet grant our counsels still their breasts may move,

Lest all should perish in the rage of Jove.

The Goddess thus : and thus the God replies,

Who swells the clouds, and blackens all the skies :

585

The morning-sun, awak'd by loud alarms,

Shall see th' almighty Thunderer in arms.

What heaps of Argives then shall load the plain,

Those radiant eyes shall view, and view in vain.

Nor



Nor shall great Hector cease the rage of fight, 590  
 The navy flaming, and thy Greeks in flight,  
 Ev'n till the day, when certain fates ordain  
 That stern Achilles (his Patroclus slain)  
 Shall rise in vengeance, and lay waste the plain.  
 For such is fate, nor canst thou turn its course 595

With all thy rage, with all thy rebel force.  
 Fly, if thou wilt, to earth's remotest bound,  
 Where on her utmost verge the seas resound;  
 Where curs'd Iapetus and Saturn dwell,  
 Fast by the brink, within the streams of hell; 600  
 No sun e'er gilds the gloomy horrors there,  
 No cheerful gales refresh the lazy air;  
 There arm once more the bold Titanian band;  
 And arm in vain; for what I will, shall stand.

Now deep in ocean sunk the lamp of light, 605  
 And drew behind the cloudy veil of night:  
 The conqu'ring Trojans mourn his beams decay'd;  
 The Greeks, rejoicing, bless the friendly shade.

The victors keep the field: and Hector calls  
 A martial council near the navy-walls: 610  
 These to Scamander's bank apart he led,  
 Where, thinly scatter'd, lay the heaps of dead.  
 Th' assembled chiefs, descending on the ground,  
 Attend his order, and their prince surround.  
 A massy spear he bore of mighty strength, 615  
 Of full ten cubits was the lance's length;  
 The point was brass, refulgent to behold,  
 Fix'd to the wood with circling rings of gold:  
 The noble Hector on his lance reclin'd,  
 And bending forward, thus reveal'd his mind: 620

'Ye valiant Trojans with attention hear!  
 Ye Dardan bands, and gen'rous aids give ear!  
 This day, we hop'd, would wrap in conqu'ring flame  
 Greece with her ships, and crown our toils with fame:  
 But darkness now to save the cowards falls, 625  
 And guards them trembling in their wooden walls.  
 Obey the Night, and use her peaceful hours  
 Our steeds to forage, and refresh our pow'rs.  
 Straight from the town be sheep and oxen sought,  
 And strength'ning bread, and gen'rous wine be brought.



Wide o'er the field, high-blazing to the sky, 631  
Let num'rous fires the absent sun supply,  
The flaming piles with plenteous fuel raise,  
Till the bright morn her purple beam displays;  
Left, in the silence and the shades of night, 635  
Greece on her sable ships attempt her flight.  
Not unmolest'd let the wretches gain  
Their lofty decks, or safely cleave the main:  
Some hostile wound let ev'ry dart bestow,  
Some lasting token of the Phrygian foe, 640  
Wounds, that long hence may ask their spouses care,  
And warn their children from a Trojan war.  
Now, thro' the circuit of our Ilian wall,  
Let sacred heralds sound the solemn call;  
To bid the fires with hoary honours crown'd, 645  
And beardless youths, our battlements surround.  
Firm be the guard, while distant lie our pow'rs,  
And let the matrons hang with lights the tow'rs:  
Left, under covert of the midnight-shade,  
Th' invidious foe the naked town invade. 650  
Suffice, to-night these honours to obey;  
A nobler charge shall rouse the dawning day.  
The Gods, I trust, shall give to Hector's hand,  
From these detested foes to free the land,  
Who plough'd, with fates averse, the wat'ry way; 655  
For Trojan vultures a predestin'd prey.  
Our common safety must be now the care;  
But soon as morning paints the fields of air,  
Sheath'd in bright arms let ev'ry troop engage,  
And the fir'd fleet behold the battle rage. 660  
Then, then shall Hector and Tydides prove,  
Whose fates are heaviest in the scales of Jove.  
To-morrow's light (oh haste the glorious morn!)  
Shall see his bloody spoils in triumph born,  
With this keen jav'lin shall his breast be gor'd, 665  
And prostrate heroes bleed around their lord.  
Certain as this, oh! might my days endure,  
From age inglorious, and black death secure;  
So might my life and glory know no bound,  
Like Pallas worshipp'd, like the sun renown'd! 670  
As the next dawn the last they shall enjoy,  
Shall crush the Greeks, and end the woes of Troy.



The leader spoke. From all his host around  
 Shouts of applause along the shores resound.  
 Each from the yoke the smoking steeds unty'd, 675  
 And fix'd their headstalls to his chariot-side.  
 Fat sheep and oxen from the town are led,  
 With gen'rous wine, and all-sustaining bread.  
 Full hecatombs lay burning on the shore;  
 The winds to heav'n the curling vapours bore. 680  
 Ungrateful off'ring to the immortal pow'rs!  
 Whose wrath hung heavy o'er the Trojan tow'rs;  
 Nor Priam nor his sons obtain'd their grace;  
 Proud Troy they hated, and her guilty race.

The troops exulting sat in order round, 685  
 And beaming fires illumin'd all the ground.  
 As when the moon, refulgent lamp of night!  
 O'er heav'n's clear azure spreads her sacred light,  
 When not a breath disturbs the deep serene,  
 And not a cloud o'ercasts the solemn scene; 690  
 Around her throne the vivid planets roll,  
 And stars unnumber'd gild the glowing pole,  
 O'er the dark trees a yellower verdure shed,  
 And tip with silver ev'ry mountain's head:  
 Then shine the vales, the rocks in prospect rise, 695  
 A flood of glory bursts from all the skies:  
 The conscious swains, rejoicing in the sight,  
 Eye the blue vault, and bless the useful light.  
 So many flames before proud Ilion blaze,  
 And lighten glimm'ring Xanthus with their rays: 700  
 The long reflections of the distant fires  
 Gleam on the walls, and tremble on the spires.  
 A thousand piles the dusky horrors gild,  
 And shoot a shady lustre o'er the field.  
 Full fifty guards each flaming pile attend, 705  
 Whose umber'd arms, by fits, thick flashes send;  
 Loud neigh the couriers o'er their heaps of corn,  
 And ardent warriors wait the rising morn.

THE



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K IX.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The embassy to Achilles.

*Agamemnon, after the last day's defeat, proposes to the Greeks to quit the siege, and return to their country. Diomed opposes this, and Nestor seconds him, praising his wisdom and resolution. He orders the guard to be strengthened, and a council summoned to deliberate what measures are to be followed in this emergency. Agamemnon pursues this advice, and Nestor farther prevails upon him to send ambassadors to Achilles, in order to move him to a reconciliation. Ulysses and Ajax are made choice of, who are accompanied by old Phœnix. They make, each of them, very moving and pressing speeches, but are rejected with roughness by Achilles, who notwithstanding retains Phœnix in his tent. The ambassadors return unsuccessfully to the camp, and the troops betake themselves to sleep.*

*This book, and the next following, take up the space of one night, which is the twenty seventh from the beginning of the poem. The scene lies on the sea-shore, the station of the Grecian ships.*

THE joyful Troy maintain'd the watch of night;  
 While fear, pale comrade of inglorious flight,  
 And heav'n bred horror, on the Grecian part,  
 Sat on each face, and sadden'd ev'ry heart.  
 As from its cloudy dungeon issuing forth,  
 A double tempest of the west and north  
 Swells o'er the sea, from Thracia's frozen shore,  
 Heaps waves on waves, and bids th' Ægean roar;  
 This way and that, the boiling deeps are tost;  
 Such various passions urg'd the troubled host.



Great Agamemnon griev'd above the rest;  
 Superior sorrows swell'd his royal breast;  
 Himself his orders to the heralds bears,  
 To bid to council all the Grecian peers,  
 But bid in whispers: these surround their chief, 15  
 In solemn sadness, and majestic grief.

The king amidst the mournful circle rose;  
 Down his wan cheek a briny torrent flows:  
 So silent fountains, from a rock's tall head,  
 In fable streams soft-trickling waters shed. 20

With more than vulgar grief he stood oppress'd;  
 Words, mix'd with sighs, thus bursting from his breast:

Ye sons of Greece! partake your leader's care,  
 Fellows in arms, and princes of the war!  
 Of partial Jove too justly we complain, 25  
 And heav'nly oracles believ'd in vain.

A safe return was promis'd to our toils,  
 With conquest honour'd, and enrich'd with spoils;  
 Now shameful flight alone can save the host!  
 Our wealth, our people, and our glory lost. 30  
 So Jove decrees, almighty lord of all!

Jove, at whose nod whole empires rise or fall,  
 Who shakes the feeble props of human trust,  
 And tow'rs and armies humbles to the dust.  
 Hasten then, for ever quit these fatal fields, 35  
 Hasten to the joys our native country yields:

Spread all your canvas, all your oars employ,  
 Nor hope the fall of heav'n defended Troy.

He said; deep silence held the Grecian band,  
 Silent, unmov'd, in dire dismay they stand, 40  
 A pensive scene! till Tydeus' warlike son  
 Roll'd on the King his eyes, and thus begun:

When kings advise us to renounce our fame,  
 First let them speak, who first has suffer'd shame.  
 If I oppose thee, Prince! thy wrath withhold, 45  
 The laws of council bid my tongue be bold.

Thou first, and thou alone in fields of fight,  
 Durst brand my courage, and defame my might:  
 Nor from a friend th' unkind reproach appear'd,  
 The Greeks stood witness, all our army heard. 50

The Gods, O chief! from whom our honours spring,  
 The Gods have made thee but by halves a king:

They



They gave thee sceptres, and a wide command,  
They gave dominion o'er the seas and land ;  
The noblest pow'r that might the world controul 55  
They gave thee not—a brave and virtuous soul.

Is this a gen'ral's voice, that would suggest  
Fears like his own to ev'ry Grecian breast ?  
Confiding in our want of worth, he stands ;  
And if we fly, 'tis what our king commands. 60

Go thou inglorious ! from th' embattled plain ;  
Ships thou hast store, and nearest to the main :  
A nobler care the Grecians shall employ,  
To combat, conquer, and extirpate Troy.

Here Greece shall stay ; or if all Greece retire, 65  
Myself will stay, till Troy or I expire ;  
Myself, and Sthenelus, will fight for fame :  
God bade us fight, and 'twas with God we came.

He ceas'd ; the Greeks loud acclamations raise,  
And voice to voice resounds Tydides' praise. 70  
Wise Nestor then his rev'rend figure rear'd ;  
He spoke : the host in still attention heard.

O truly great ! in whom the Gods have join'd  
Such strength of body with such force of mind ;  
In conduct, as in courage, you excell, 75  
Still first to act what you advise so well.

Those wholesome counsels which thy wisdom moves,  
Applauding Greece with common voice approves.  
Kings thou canst blame ; a bold, but prudent youth ;  
And blame ev'n kings with praise, because with truth.  
And yet those years that since thy birth have run, 81  
Would hardly stile thee Nestor's youngest son.

Then let me add what yet remains behind,  
A thought unfinish'd in that gen'rous mind ;  
Age bids me speak ; nor shall th' advice I bring, 85  
Distaste the people, or offend the king :

Curs'd is the man, and void of law and right,  
Unworthy property, unworthy light,  
Unfit for public rule, or private care ;  
That wretch, that monster who delights in war : 90

Whose lust is murder, and whose horrid joy,  
To tear his country, and his kind destroy !  
This night, refresh and fortify thy train ;  
Between the trench and wall let guards remain :



Be that the duty of the young and bold ; 95  
 But thou, O king, to council call the old :  
 Great is thy sway, and weighty are thy cares ;  
 Thy high commands must spirit all our wars.

With Thracian wines recruit thy honour'd guests,  
 For happy counsels flow from sober feasts. 100

Wise, weighty counsels aid a state distressed,  
 And such a monarch as can chuse the best.

See ! what a blaze from hostile tents aspires,  
 How near our fleet approach the Trojan fires !

Who can unmov'd, behold the dreadful light, 105  
 What eye beholds them, and can close to-night ?

This dreadful interval determines all ;  
 To-morrow, Troy must flame, or Greece must fall.

Thus spoke the hoary sage : the rest obey ;  
 Swift thro' the gates the guards direct their way. 110

His son was first to pass the lofty mound,  
 The gen'rous Thrasymed, in arms renown'd :

Next him, Ascalaphus, Ialmen, stood,  
 The double offspring of the warrior-god.

Deipyrus, Aphareus, Merion join, 115  
 And Lycomed, of Creon's noble line.

Sev'n were the leaders of the nightly bands,  
 And each bold chief a hundred spears commands.

The fires they light, to short repasts they fall,  
 Some line the trench, and others man the wall. 120

The king of men, on public counsels bent,  
 Conven'd the princes in his ample tent ;

Each seiz'd a portion of the kingly feast,  
 But staid his hand when thirst and hunger ceas'd.

Then Nestor spoke, for wisdom long approv'd, 125  
 And slowly rising, thus the council mov'd :

Monarch of nations ? whose superior sway,  
 Assembled states, and lords of earth obey,

The laws and sceptres to thy hand are giv'n,  
 And millions own the care of thee and heav'n. 130

O king ! the counsels of my age attend ;  
 With thee my cares begin, in thee must end ;

Thee, prince ! it fits alike to speak and hear,  
 Pronounce with judgment, with regard give ear,

To see no wholesome motion be withstood, 135  
 And ratify the best for public good.

Nor,



Nor, tho' a meaner give advice, repine,  
But follow it, and make the wisdom thine.  
Hear then a thought, and now conceiv'd in haste,  
At once my present judgment, and my past. 140  
When from Pelides' tent you forc'd the maid,  
I first oppos'd, and faithful, durst dissuade;  
But bold of soul, when headlong fury fir'd,  
You wrong'd the man, by men and gods admir'd:  
Now seek some means his fatal wrath to end, 145  
With pray'rs to move him, or with gifts to bend.

To whom the King: With justice hast thou shown  
A prince's faults, and I with reason own.  
That happy man, whom Jove still honours most,  
Is more than armies, and himself an host. 150  
Bless'd in his love, this wondrous hero stands;  
Heav'n fights his war, and humbles all our bands.  
Fain would my heart, which err'd through frantic rage,  
The wrathful chief and angry Gods assuage.  
If gifts immense his mighty soul can bow, 155  
Hear, all ye Greeks, and witness what I vow:  
Ten weighty talents of the purest gold,  
And twice ten vases of refulgent mold;  
Sev'n sacred tripods, whose unsully'd frame  
Yet knows no office, nor has felt the flame; 160  
Twelve steeds unmatch'd in fleetness and in force,  
And still victorious in the dusty course;  
(Rich were the man whose ample stores exceed  
The prizes purchas'd by their winged speed);  
Sev'n lovely captives of the Lesbian line, 165  
Skill'd in each art, unmatch'd in form divine,  
The same I chose for more than vulgar charms,  
When Lesbos sunk beneath the hero's arms:  
All these to buy his friendship, shall be paid,  
And join'd with these the long-contested maid; 170  
With all her charms, Briseïs I resign,  
And solemn swear those charms were never mine;  
Untouch'd she staid, uninjur'd she removes,  
Pure from my arms, and guiltless of my loves.  
These instant shall be his; and if the pow'rs 175  
Give to our arms proud Ilion's hostile tow'rs,  
Then shall he store (when Greece the spoil divides)  
With gold and brass his loaded navy's sides.

Besides,



Besides, full twenty nymphs of Trojan race,  
 With copious love shall crown his warm embrace; 180  
 Such as himself will chuse; who yield to none,  
 Or yield to Helen's heav'nly charms alone.  
 Yet hear me farther: when our wars are o'er,  
 If safe we land on Argos' fruitful shore,  
 There shall he live my son, our honours share, 185  
 And with Orestes' self divide my care.  
 Yet more——three daughters in my court are bred,  
 And each well worthy of a royal bed;  
 Laodice and Iphigenia fair,  
 And bright Chrysothemis with golden hair; 190  
 Her let him chuse, whom most his eyes approve;  
 I ask no presents, no reward for love;  
 Myself will give the dow'r; so vast a store,  
 As never father gave a child before.  
 Sev'n ample cities shall confess his sway; 195  
 Him Enope, and Pheræ him obey,  
 Cardamyle with ample turrets crown'd,  
 And sacred Pedasus for vines renown'd;  
 Æpea fair, the pastures Hira yields,  
 And rich Antheia with her flow'ry fields; 200  
 The whole extent to Pylos' sandy plain,  
 Along the verdant margin of the main.  
 There heifers graze, and lab'ring oxen toil;  
 Bold are the men, and gen'rous is the soil;  
 There shall he reign with pow'r and justice crown'd, 205  
 And rule the tributary realms around.  
 All this I give, his vengeance to controul,  
 And sure all this may move his mighty soul.  
 Pluto, the grisly God, who never spares,  
 Who feels no mercy, and who hears no pray'rs, 210  
 Lives dark and dreadful in deep hell's abodes,  
 And mortals hate him, as the worst of Gods.  
 Great tho' he be, it fits him to obey;  
 Since more than his my years, and more my sway.

The monarch thus: the rev'rend Nestor then: 215  
 Great Agamemnon! glorious king of men!  
 Such are thy offers as a prince may take,  
 And such as fits a gen'rous king to make.  
 Let chosen delegates this hour be sent  
 (Myself will name them) to Pelides' tent: 220

Let



Let Phœnix lead, rever'd for hoary age,  
Great Ajax next, and Ithacus the sage.  
Yet more to sanctify the word you send,  
Let Hodus and Eurybates attend.

Now pray to Jove to grant what Greece demands ;  
Pray in deep silence, and with purest hands. 226

He said, and all approv'd. The heralds bring  
The cleansing water from the living spring.

The youth with wine the sacred goblets crown'd,  
And large libations drench'd the sands around. 230

The rite perform'd, the chiefs their thirst allay,  
Then from the royal tent they take their way ;

Wise Nestor turns on each his careful eye,  
Forbids t' offend, instructs them to apply :

Much he advis'd them all, Ulysses most, 235  
To deprecate the chief, and save the host.

Thro' the still night they march, and hear the roar  
Of murm'ring billows on the founding shore.

To Neptune, ruler of the seas profound,  
Whose liquid arms the mighty globe surround, 240

They pour forth vows, their embassy to bless,  
And calm the rage of stern Æacides.

And now arriv'd, where on the sandy bay  
The Myrmidonian tents and vessels lay ;

Amus'd at ease, the godlike man they found, 245  
Pleas'd with the solemn harp's harmonious sound.

(The well-wrought harp from conquer'd Thebæ came,  
Of polish'd silver was its costly frame) ;

With this he sooths his angry soul, and sings  
Th' immortal deeds of heroes and of kings. 250

Patroclus only of the royal train,  
Plac'd in his tent, attends the lofty strain:

Full opposite he sat, and listen'd long.  
In silence waiting till he ceas'd the song.

Unseen the Grecian embassy proceeds 255  
To his high tent ; the great Ulysses leads.

Achilles starting, as the chiefs he spy'd,  
Leap'd from his seat, and laid the harp aside.

With like surprise arose Menœtius' son :  
Pelides grasp'd their hands, and thus begun : 260

Princes, all hail ! whatever brought you here,  
Or strong necessity, or urgent fear ;

Welcome,



Welcome, tho' Greeks ! for not as foes ye came :  
To me more dear than all that bear the name,

With that, the chiefs beneath his roof he led, 265  
And plac'd in seats with purple carpets spread.

Then thus——Patroclus, crown a larger bowl,  
Mix purer wine, and open ev'ry soul.

Of all the warriors yonder host can send,  
Thy friend most honours these, and these thy friend.

He said ; Patroclus o'er the blazing fire 271  
Heaps in a brazen vase three chines entire ;

The brazen vase Automedon sustains,  
Which flesh of porket, sheep, and goat contains :

Achilles at the genial feast presides, 275  
The parts transfixes, and with skill divides.

Mean-while Patroclus sweats the fire to raise ;

The tent is brighten'd with the rising blaze :

Then, when the languid flames at length subside,  
He strows a bed of glowing embers wide, 280

Above the coals the smoking fragments turns,

And sprinkles sacred salt from lifted urns ;

With bread the glitt'ring canisters they load,

Which round the board Menœtius' son bestow'd ;

Himself, oppos'd t' Ulysses full in fight, 285  
Each portion parts, and orders ev'ry rite.

The first fat off 'rings, to th' Immortals due,

Amidst the greedy flames Patroclus threw ;

Then each, indulging in the social feast,

His thirst and hunger soberly repress. 290

That done, to Phœnix Ajax gave the sign ;

Not unperceiv'd ; Ulysses crown'd with wine

The foaming bowl, and instant thus began,

His speech addressing to the godlike man.

Health to Achilles ! happy are thy guests ! 295

Not those more honour'd whom Atrides feasts ;

Tho' gen'rous plenty crown thy loaded boards,

That Agamemnon's regal tent affords ;

But greater cares sit heavy on our souls,

Not eas'd by banquets or by flowing bowls. 300

What scenes of slaughter in yon fields appear !

The dead we mourn, and for the living fear :

Greece on the brink of fate all doubtful stands,

And owns no help but from thy saving hands :

Troy



Troy and her aids for ready vengeance call ; 305  
 Their threat'ning tents already shade our wall ;  
 Hear how with shouts their conquest they proclaim,  
 And point at ev'ry ship their vengeful flame !  
 For them the father of the Gods declares,  
 Theirs are his omens, and his thunder theirs. 310  
 See, full of Jove, avenging Hector rise !  
 See ! heav'n and earth the raging chief defies ;  
 What fury in his breast, what lightning in his eyes !  
 He waits but for the morn, to sink in flame  
 The ships, the Greeks, and all the Grecian name. 315  
 Heav'ns ! how my country's woes distract my mind,  
 Left fate accomplish all his rage design'd.  
 And must we, Gods ! our heads inglorious lay  
 In Trojan dust, and this the fatal day ?  
 Return, Achilles ! oh return, tho' late, 320  
 To save thy Greeks, and stop the course of fate ;  
 If in that heart, or grief, or courage lies,  
 Rise to redeem ; ah yet, to conquer rise !  
 The day may come, when all our warriors slain,  
 That heart shall melt, that courage rise in vain. 325  
 Regard in time, O prince divinely brave !  
 Those wholesome counsels which thy father gave.  
 When Peleus in his aged arms embrac'd  
 His parting son, these accents were his last :  
 My child ! with strength, with glory and success, 330  
 Thy arms may Juno and Minerva bless !  
 Trust that to heav'n : but thou thy cares engage  
 To calm thy passions, and subdue thy rage :  
 From gentler manners let thy glory grow,  
 And shun contention, the sure source of woe ; 335  
 That young and old may in thy praise combine,  
 The virtues of humanity be thine——  
 This, now despis'd advice, thy father gave ;  
 Ah ! check thy anger, and be truly brave.  
 If thou wilt yield to great Atrides' pray'rs, 340  
 Gifts worthy thee his royal hand prepares ;  
 If not——but hear me, while I number o'er  
 The proffer'd presents, an exhaustless store.  
 Ten weighty talents of the purest gold,  
 And twice ten vases of refulgent mold ; 345

Sev'n



Sev'n sacred tripods, whose unfully'd frame  
 Yet knows no office, nor has felt the flame ;  
 Twelve steeds unmatch'd in fleetness and in force,  
 And still victorious in the dusty course ;  
 (Rich were the man whose ample stores exceed 350  
 The prizes purchas'd by their winged speed) ;  
 Sev'n lovely captives of the Lesbian line,  
 Skill'd in each art, unmatch'd in form divine,  
 The same he chose for more than vulgar charms,  
 When Lesbos sunk beneath thy conqu'ring arms. 355  
 All these, to buy thy friendship, shall be paid,  
 And join'd with these the long contested maid ;  
 With all her charms, Briseïs he'll resign,  
 And solemn swear those charms were only thine,  
 Untouch'd she stay'd, uninjur'd she removes, 360  
 Pure from his arms, and guiltless of his loves.  
 These instant shall be thine ; and if the pow'rs  
 Give to our arms proud Ilion's hostile tow'rs,  
 Then shalt thou store (when Greece the spoil divides)  
 With gold and brass thy loaded navy's sides. 365  
 Besides, full twenty nymphs of Trojan race,  
 With copious love shall crown thy warm embrace ;  
 Such as thyself shall chuse ; who yield to none,  
 Or yield to Helen's heav'nly charms alone.  
 Yet hear me farther : when our wars are o'er, 370  
 If safe we land on Argos' fruitful shore,  
 There shalt thou live his son, his honours share,  
 And with Orestes' self divide his care.  
 Yet more ——— three daughters in his court are bred,  
 And each well worthy of a royal bed ; 375  
 Laodice and Iphigenia fair,  
 And bright Chrysothemis with golden hair ;  
 Her shalt thou wed, whom most thy eyes approve ;  
 He asks no presents, no reward for love :  
 Himself will give the dow'r ; so vast a store, 380  
 As never father gave a child before.  
 Sev'n ample cities shall confess thy sway,  
 Thee Enope, and Pheræ thee obey,  
 Cardamyle with ample turrets crown'd,  
 And sacred Pedasus, for vines renown'd : 385  
 Æpea fair, the pastures Hira yields,  
 And rich Antheia with her flow'ry fields :



The whole extent to Pylos' sandy plain,  
 Along the verdant margin of the main.  
 There heifers graze, and lab'ring oxen toil; 390  
 Bold are the men, and gen'rous is the soil.  
 There shalt thou reign with pow'r and justice crown'd,  
 And rule the tributary realms around.  
 Such are the proffers which this day we bring,  
 Such the repentance of a suppliant king. 395  
 But if all this relentless thou disdain,  
 If honour, and if int'rest plead in vain;  
 Yet some redress to suppliant Greece afford,  
 And be, amongst her guardian Gods, ador'd.  
 If no regard thy suff'ring country claim, 400  
 Hear thy own glory, and the voice of fame:  
 For now that chief, whose unresisted ire  
 Made nations tremble, and whole hosts retire,  
 Proud Hector, now th' unequal fight demands,  
 And only triumphs to deserve thy hands. 405

Then thus the Goddefs-born: Ulysses, hear  
 A faithful speech, that knows nor art, nor fear;  
 What in my secret soul is understood,  
 My tongue shall utter, and my deeds make good.  
 Let Greece then know, my purpose I retain; 410  
 Nor with new treaties vex my peace in vain.  
 Who dares think one thing, and another tell,  
 My heart detests him as the gates of hell.

Then thus in short my fix'd resolves attend,  
 Which, nor Atrides, nor his Greeks, can bend; 415  
 Long toils, long perils, in their cause I bore,  
 But now th' unfruitful glories charm no more.  
 Fight or not fight, a like reward we claim,  
 The wretch and hero find their prize the same;  
 Alike regretted in the dust he lies, 520  
 Who yields ignobly, or who bravely dies.  
 Of all my dangers, all my glorious pains,  
 A life of labours, lo! what fruit remains?  
 As the bold bird her helpless young attends,  
 From danger guards them, and from want defends; 425  
 In search of prey she wings the spacious air,  
 And with th' untasted food supplies her care;  
 For thankless Greece such hardships have I brav'd,  
 Her wives, her infants by my labours sav'd;



Long sleepless nights in heavy arms I stood, 430  
 And sweat laborious days in dust and blood.  
 I sack'd twelve ample cities on the main,  
 And twelve lay smoking on the Trojan plain:  
 Then at Atrides' haughty feet were laid  
 The wealth I gather'd, and the spoils I made. 435  
 Your mighty monarch these in peace possesse;  
 Some few my soldiers had, himself the rest.  
 Some present too to ev'ry prince was paid;  
 And ev'ry prince enjoys the gift he made;  
 I only must refund, of all his train: 440  
 See what pre-eminence our merits gain!  
 My spoil alone his greedy soul delights;  
 My spouse alone must bless his lustful nights:  
 The woman, let him (as he may) enjoy;  
 But what's the quarrel then of Greece to Troy! 445  
 What to these shores th' assembled nations draws,  
 What calls for vengeance, but a woman's cause?  
 Are fair endowments and a beauteous face  
 Belov'd by none but those of Atreus' race?  
 The wife whom choice and passion both approve, 450  
 Sure ev'ry wise and worthy man will love.  
 Nor did my fair-one less distinction claim;  
 Slave as she was, my soul ador'd the dame.  
 Wrong'd in my love all proffers I disdain;  
 Deceiv'd for once, I trust not kings again. 455  
 Ye have my answer—what remains to do,  
 Your king, Ulysses, may consult with you.  
 What needs he the defence this arm can make?  
 Has he not walls no human force can shake?  
 Has he not fenc'd his guarded navy round, 460  
 With piles, with ramparts, and a trench profound?  
 And will not these (the wonders he has done)  
 Repel the rage of Priam's single son?  
 There was a time ('twas when for Greece I fought)  
 When Hector's prowess no such wonders wrought: 465  
 He kept the verge of Troy, nor dar'd to wait  
 Achilles' fury at the Scæan gate;  
 He try'd it once, and scarce was sav'd by fate.  
 But now those ancient enmities are o'er;  
 To-morrow we the fav'ring Gods implore, 470  
 Then



Then shall you see our parting vessels crown'd,  
 And hear with oars the Hellespont resound.  
 The third day hence, shall Pthia greet our sails,  
 If mighty Neptune send propitious gales;  
 Pthia to her Achilles shall restore 475  
 The wealth he left for this detested shore:  
 Thither the spoils of this long war shall pass,  
 The ruddy gold, the steel, and shining brags;  
 My beauteous captives thither I'll convey,  
 And all that rests of my unravish'd prey. 480  
 One only valu'd gift your tyrant gave,  
 And that resum'd; the fair Lyrnessian slave.  
 Then tell him, loud, that all the Greeks may hear,  
 And learn to scorn the wretch they basely fear;  
 (For arm'd in impudence, mankind he braves, 485  
 And meditates new cheats on all his slaves;  
 Tho' shameless as he is, to face these eyes  
 Is what he dares not; if he dares, he dies):  
 Tell him, all terms, all commerce I decline,  
 Nor share his council nor his battle join: 490  
 For once deceiv'd, was his; but twice, were mine. — }  
 No—let the stupid prince, whom Jove deprives  
 Of sense and justice, run where frenzy drives;  
 His gifts are hateful: kings of such a kind  
 Stand but as slaves before a noble mind: 495  
 Not tho' he proffer'd all himself possess,  
 And all his rapine could from others wrest;  
 Not all the golden tides of wealth that crown  
 The many-peopled Orchomenian town;  
 Not all proud Thebes' unrivall'd walls contain, 500  
 The world's great empress on th' Egyptian plain,  
 (That spreads her conquests o'er a thousand states,  
 And pours her heroes thro' a hundred gates,  
 Two hundred horsemen, and two hundred cars  
 From each wide portal issuing to the wars); 505  
 Tho' bribes were heap'd on bribes, in number more  
 Than dust in fields, or sands along the shore;  
 Should all these offers for my friendship call;  
 'Tis he that offers, and I scorn them all.  
 Atrides' daughter never shall be led 510  
 (An ill-match'd consort) to Achilles' bed;



Like golden Venus tho' she charm'd the heart,  
And vy'd with Pallas in the works of art.  
Some greater Greek let those high nuptials grace,  
I hate alliance with a tyrant's race. 515  
If heav'n restore me to my realms with life,  
The rev'rend Peleus shall elect my wife;  
Thessalian nymphs there are, of form divine,  
And kings that sue to mix their blood with mine.  
Bless'd in kind love, my years shall glide away, 520  
Content with just hereditary sway;  
There deaf for ever, to the martial strife,  
Enjoy the dear prerogative of life.  
Life is not to be bought with heaps of gold;  
Not all Apollo's Pythian treasures hold, 525  
Or Troy once held, in peace and pride of sway,  
Can bribe the poor possession of a day:  
Lost herds and treasures we by arms regain,  
And steeds unrivall'd on the dusty plain:  
But from our lips the vital spirit fled, 530  
Returns no more to wake the silent dead.  
My fates long since by Thetis were disclos'd,  
And each alternate, life or fame propos'd;  
Here, if I stay, before the Trojan town,  
Short is my date, but deathless my renown: 535  
If I return, I quit immortal praise  
For years on years, and long extended days.  
Convinc'd, tho' late, I find my fond mistake,  
And warn the Greeks the wiser choice to make;  
To quit these shores, their native seats enjoy, 540  
Nor hope the fall of heav'n-defended Troy.  
Jove's arms display'd, asserts her from the skies;  
Her hearts are strengthen'd, and her glories rise.  
Go then, to Greece report our fix'd design:  
Bid all your counsels, all your armies join, 545  
Let all your forces, all your arts conspire,  
To save the ships, the troops, the chiefs from fire.  
One stratagem has fail'd, and others will:  
Ye find, Achilles is unconquer'd still.  
Go then—digest my message as ye may— 550  
But here this night let rev'rend Phoenix stay:  
His tedious toils, and hoary hairs demand  
A peaceful death in Pthia's friendly land.

But



But whether he remain, or fail with me,  
His age be sacred, and his will be free. 555

The son of Peleus ceas'd: the chiefs around  
In silence wrapt, in consternation drown'd,  
Attend the stern reply. Then Phœnix rose;  
(Down his white beard a stream of sorrow flows),  
And while the fate of suff'ring Greece he mourn'd, 560  
With accent weak these tender words return'd:

Divine Achilles! wilt thou then retire,  
And leave our hosts in blood, our fleets on fire?  
If wrath so dreadful fill thy ruthless mind,  
How shall thy friend, thy Phœnix, stay behind? 565  
The royal Peleus, when from Pthia's coast,  
He sent thee early to th' Achaian host;  
Thy youth as then in sage debates unskill'd,  
And new to perils of the direful field;  
He bade me teach thee all the ways of war; 570  
To shine in councils, and in camps to dare.  
Never, ah never, let me leave thy side!

No time shall part us, and no fate divide.  
Not tho' the God, that breath'd my life, restore  
The bloom I boasted, and the part I bore, 575  
When Greece of old beheld my youthful flames,  
(Delightful Greece, the land of lovely dames).

My father faithless to my mother's arms,  
Old as he was, ador'd a stranger's charms.  
I try'd what youth could do (at her desire) 580  
To win the damsel, and prevent my fire.  
My fire with curses loads my hated head,  
And cries, "Ye furies! barren be his bed."

Infernal Jove, the vengeful fiends below,  
And ruthless Proserpine, confirm'd his vow. 585  
Despair and grief distract my lab'ring mind!

Gods! what a crime my impious heart design'd?  
I thought (but some kind God that thought suppress)  
To plunge the poniard in my father's breast:  
Then meditate my flight; my friends in vain 590

With pray'rs intreat me, and with force detain.  
On fat of rams, black bulls, and brawny swine,  
They daily feast, with draughts of fragrant wine:  
Strong guards they plac'd, and watch'd nine nights entire;  
The roofs and porches flam'd with constant fire. 595



The tenth, I forc'd the gates, unseen of all :  
 And, favour'd by the night, o'erleap'd the wall.  
 My travels thence thro' spacious Greece extend ;  
 In Pthia's court at last my labours end.  
 Your fire receiv'd me, as his son caress'd, 600  
 With gifts enrich'd, and with possessions blest'd.  
 The strong Dolopians thenceforth own'd my reign,  
 And all the coast that runs along the main.  
 By love to thee his bounties I repaid,  
 And early wisdom to thy soul convey'd : 605  
 Great as thou art, my lessons made thee brave,  
 A child I took thee, but a hero gave.  
 Thy infant breast a like affection show'd ;  
 Still in my arms, (an ever-pleasing load),  
 Or at my knee, by Phoenix wouldst thou stand ; 610  
 No food was grateful but from Phoenix' hand.  
 I pass my watchings o'er thy helpless years,  
 The tender labours, the compliant cares ;  
 The Gods (I thought) revers'd their hard decree,  
 And Phoenix felt a father's joys in thee : 615  
 Thy growing virtues justify'd my cares,  
 And promis'd comfort to my silver hairs.  
 Now be thy rage, thy fatal rage, resign'd ;  
 A cruel heart ill-suits a manly mind :  
 The Gods (the only great and only wise) 620  
 Are mov'd by off'rings, vows, and sacrifice ;  
 Offending man their high compassion wins,  
 And daily pray'rs atone for daily sins.  
 Pray'rs are Jove's daughters, of celestial race,  
 Lame are their feet, and wrinkled is their face ; 625  
 With humble mien, and with dejected eyes,  
 Constant they follow where injustice flies :  
 Injustice swift, erect, and unconfin'd,  
 Sweeps the wide earth, and tramples o'er mankind, }  
 While pray'rs, to heal her wrongs move slow behind. }  
 Who hears these daughters of almighty Jove, 631  
 For him they mediate to the throne above :  
 When man rejects the humble suit they make,  
 The fire revenges for the daughters sake ;  
 From Jove comm'nd, fierce Injustice then 735  
 Descends, to punish unrelenting men.



Oh let not headlong passion bear the sway ;  
These reconciling goddesses obey :  
Due honours to the seed of Jove belong ;  
Due honours calm the fierce, and bend the strong, 640  
Were these not paid thee by the terms we bring,  
Were rage still harbour'd in the haughty king ;  
Nor Greece, nor all her fortunes should engage  
Thy friend to plead against so just a rage.

But since what honour asks, the gen'ral sends, 645  
And sends by those whom most thy heart commends,  
The best and noblest of the Grecian train ;  
Permit not these to sue, and sue in vain !  
Let me (my son) an ancient fact unfold,  
A great example drawn from times of old ; 650  
Hear what our fathers were, and what their praise,  
Who conquer'd their revenge in former days.

Where Calydon on rocky mountains stands,  
Once fought th' Ætolian and Curetian bands ;  
To guard it those, to conquer these advance ; 655  
And mutual deaths were dealt with mutual chance.  
The silver Cynthia bade contention rise,  
In vengeance of neglected sacrifice ;  
On Oeneus' fields she sent a monstrous boar,  
That levell'd harvests, and whole forests tore : 660  
This beast (when many a chief his tusks had slain)  
Great Meleager stretch'd along the plain.  
Then, for his spoils, a new debate arose,  
The neighbour nations thence commencing foes.  
Strong as they were, the bold Curetes fail'd, 665  
While Meleager's thund'ring arm prevail'd :  
Till rage at length inflam'd his lofty breast,  
(For rage invades the wisest and the best.)

Curs'd by Althea, to his wrath he yields,  
And in his wife's embrace forgets the fields. 670  
“ She from Marpessa sprung, divinely fair,  
“ And matchless Idas more than man in war ;  
“ The God of day ador'd the mother's charms ;  
“ Against the God the father bent his arms :  
“ Th' afflicted pair, their sorrows to proclaim, 675  
“ From Cleopatra chang'd this daughter's name,  
“ And call'd Alcyone ; a name to show,  
“ The father's grief, the mourning mother's woe.”

To



To her the chief retir'd from stern debate,  
 But found no peace from fierce Althæa's hate : 680  
 Althæa's hate th' unhappy warrior drew,  
 Whose luckless hand his royal uncle flew ;  
 She beat the ground, and call'd the pow'rs beneath  
 On her own son to wreak her brother's death :  
 Hell heard her curses from the realms profound, 685  
 And the red fiends that walk the nightly round.  
 In vain Ætolia her deliv'rer waits,  
 War shakes her walls, and thunders at her gates.  
 She sent ambassadors, a chosen band,  
 Priests of the Gods, and elders of the land ; 690  
 Besought the chief, to save the sinking state ;  
 Their pray'rs were urgent, and their proffers great :  
 (Full fifty acres of the richest ground,  
 Half pasture green, and half with vineyards crown'd.)  
 His suppliant father, ag'd Oeneus came ; 695  
 His sisters follow'd ; ev'n the vengeful dame,  
 Althæa sues ; his friends before him fall :  
 He stands relentless, and rejects them all.  
 Mean-while the victor's shouts ascends the skies ;  
 The walls are scal'd ; the rolling flames arise ; 700  
 At length his wife (a form divine) appears,  
 With piercing cries, and supplicating tears ;  
 She paints the horrors of a conquer'd town,  
 The heroes slain, the palaces o'erthrown,  
 The matrons ravish'd, the whole race enslav'd : 705  
 The warrior heard, he vanquish'd, and he sav'd.  
 Th' Ætolians, long disdain'd, now took their turn,  
 And left the chief their broken faith to mourn.  
 Learn hence, betimes to curb pernicious ire,  
 Nor stay, till yonder fleets ascend in fire : 710  
 Accept the presents ; draw thy conqu'ring sword ;  
 And be amongst our guardian Gods ador'd.  
 Thus he : the stern Achilles thus reply'd.  
 My second father, and my rev'rend guide ;  
 Thy friend, believe me, no such gifts demands, 715  
 And asks no honours from a mortal's hands :  
 Jove honours me, and favours my designs ;  
 His pleasure guides me, and his will confines :  
 And here I stay, (if such his high behest),  
 While life's warm spirit beats within my breast. 720

Yet



Yet hear one word, and lodge it in thy heart;  
No more molest me on Atrides' part:  
Is it for him these tears are taught to flow,  
For him these sorrows? for my mortal foe!  
A gen'rous friendship no cold medium knows, 725  
Burns with one love, with one resentment glows;  
One should our int'rests and our passions be;  
My friend must hate the man that injures me.  
Do this, my Phoenix, 'tis a gen'rous part;  
And share my realms, my honours, and my heart. 730  
Let these return: our voyage, or our stay,  
Rest undetermin'd till the dawning day.

He ceas'd; then order'd for the sage's bed  
A warmer couch with num'rons carpets spread.  
With that, stern Ajax his long silence broke, 735  
And thus, impatient, to Ulysses spoke:

Hence let us go—why waste we time in vain?  
See what effect our low submissions gain!  
Lik'd or not lik'd, his words we must relate,  
The Greeks expect them, and our heroes wait. 740  
Proud as he is, that iron heart retains  
Its stubborn purpose, and his friends disdains.  
Stern, and unpitying! if a brother bleed,  
On just atonement, we remit the deed;  
A fire the slaughter of his son forgives; 745  
The price of blood discharg'd, the murd'rer lives;  
The haughtiest hearts at length their hearts resign,  
And gifts can conquer ev'ry soul but thine.  
The Gods that unrelenting breast have steel'd,  
And curs'd thee with a mind that cannot yield. 750  
One woman slave was ravish'd from thy arms;  
Lo, sev'n are offer'd, and of equal charms.  
Then hear, Achilles! be of better mind;  
Revere thy roof, and to thy guests be kind;  
And know the men, of all the Grecian host, 755  
Who honour worth, and prize thy valour most.

Oh soul of battles, and thy people's guide!  
(To Ajax thus the first of Greeks reply'd),  
Well hast thou spoke; but at the tyrant's name  
My rage rekindles, and my soul's on flame: 760  
'Tis just resentment, and becomes the brave;  
Disgrac'd, dishonour'd, like the vilest slave!

Return



Return then, heroes! and our answer bear,  
 The glorious combat is no more my care;  
 Not till amidst yon sinking navy slain, 765  
 The blood of Greeks shall dye the fable main;  
 Not till the flames, by Hector's fury thrown,  
 Consume your vessels, and approach my own:  
 Just there, th' impetuous homicide shall stand,  
 There cease his battle, and there feel our hand. 770

This said, each prince a double goblet crown'd,  
 And cast a large libation on the ground;  
 Then to their vessels, thro' the gloomy shades,  
 The chiefs return; divine Ulysses leads.  
 Mean-time Achilles' slaves prepar'd a bed, 775  
 With fleeces, carpets, and soft linen spread:  
 There, till the sacred morn restor'd the day,  
 In slumbers sweet the rev'rend Phoenix lay.  
 But in his inner-tent, an ampler space,  
 Achilles slept; and in his warm embrace 780  
 Fair Diomedè of the Lesbian race.  
 Last, for Patroclus was the couch prepar'd,  
 Whose nightly joys the beauteous Iphis shar'd;  
 Achilles to his friend consign'd her charms,  
 When Scyros fell before his conqu'ring arms. 785

And now th' elected chiefs, whom Greece had sent,  
 Pass'd thro' the hosts, and reach'd the royal tent.  
 Then rising all, with goblets in their hands,  
 The peers and leaders of th' Achaian bands,  
 Hail'd their return; Atrides first begun: 790

Say what success? divine Laertes' son!  
 Achilles' high resolves declare to all;  
 Returns the chief, or must our navy fall?  
 Great king of nations! (Ithacus reply'd),  
 Fix'd is his wrath, unconquer'd is his pride; 795  
 He slight's thy friendship, thy proposals scorns,  
 And thus implor'd, with fiercer fury burns.  
 To save our army, and our fleets to free,  
 Is not his care; but left to Greece and thee.  
 Your eyes shall view, when morning paints the sky, 800  
 Beneath his oars the whitening billows fly;  
 Us too he bids our oars and sails employ,  
 Nor hope the fall of heav'n-protected Troy;

For



For Jove o'er shades her with his arm divine,  
Inspires her war, and bids her glory shine.  
Such was his word: what farther he declar'd,  
These sacred heralds and great Ajax heard.

805

But Phoenix in his tent the chief retains,  
Safe to transport him to his native plains,  
When morning dawns; if other he decree,  
His age is sacred, and his choice is free.

810

Ulysses ceas'd: the great Achaian host,  
With sorrow seiz'd in consternation lost,  
Attend the stern reply. Tydides broke  
The gen'ral silence, and undaunted spoke.

815

Why should we gifts to proud Achilles send!  
Or strive with pray'rs his haughty soul to bend?  
His country's woes he glories to deride,  
And pray'rs will burst that swelling heart with pride.  
Be the fierce impulse of his rage obey'd;

820

Our battles let him, or desert, or aid;  
Then let him arm when Jove or he think fit;  
That, to his madness, or to heav'n commit.  
What for ourselves we can, is always ours;  
This night, let due repast refresh our pow'rs;  
(For strength consists in spirits and in blood,  
And those are ow'd to gen'rous wine and food);  
But when the rosy messenger of day  
Strikes the blue mountains with her golden ray,  
Rang'd at the ships, let all our squadrons shine,  
In flaming arms, a long extended line:  
In the dread front let great Atrides stand,  
The first in danger, as in high command.

825

830

Shouts of acclaim the listening heroes raise,  
Then each to heav'n the due libations pays;  
Till sleep, descending o'er the tents, bestows  
The grateful blessings of desir'd repose,

835



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K X.

### T H E A R G U M E N T.

*The night-adventure of Diomed and Ulysses.*

*Upon the refusal of Achilles to return to the army, the distress of Agamemnon is described in the most lively manner. He takes no rest that night, but passes through the camp, awaking the leaders, and contriving all possible methods for the public safety. Menelaus, Nestor, Ulysses, and Diomed, are employed in raising the rest of the captains. They call a council of war, and determine to send scouts into the enemy's camp, to learn their posture, and discover their intentions. Diomed undertakes this hazardous enterprise, and makes choice of Ulysses for his companion. In their passage they surprise Dolon, whom Hector had sent on a like design to the camp of the Grecians. From him they are informed of the situation of the Trojan and auxiliary forces, and particularly of Rhesus and the Thracians who were lately arrived. They pass on with success; kill Rhesus, with several of his officers, and seize the famous horses of that prince, with which they return in triumph to the camp.*

*The same night continues; the scene lies in the two camps.*

**A**LL night the chiefs before their vessels lay,  
 And lost in sleep the labours of the day:  
 All but the king; with various thoughts oppress'd,  
 His country's cares lay rolling in his breast.  
 As when by lightnings Jove's æthereal pow'r  
 Foretells the rattling hail, or weighty show'r,  
 Or sends soft snows to whiten all the shore,  
 Or bids the brazen throat of war to roar;

5



By fits one flash succeeds as one expires,  
And heav'n flames thick with momentary fires. 10  
So bursting frequent from Atrides' breast,  
Sighs following sighs his inward fears confess.  
Now o'er the fields, dejected, he surveys,  
From thousand Trojan fires, the mounting blaze;  
Hears in the passing wind their music blow, 15  
And marks distinct the voices of the foe.  
Now looking backwards to the fleet and coast,  
Anxious he sorrows for th' endanger'd host.  
He rends his hairs, in sacrifice to Jove,  
And sues to him that ever lives above: 20  
Inly he groans, while glory and despair  
Divide his heart, and wage a doubtful war.

A thousand cares his lab'ring breast revolves,  
To seek sage Nestor now the chief resolves,  
With him, in wholesome counsels, to debate 25  
What yet remains to save th' afflicted state.  
He rose, and first he cast his mantle round,  
Next on his feet the shining sandals bound;  
A lion's yellow spoils his back conceal'd;  
His warlike hand a pointed jav'lin held. 30  
Mean-while his brother, press'd with equal woes,  
Alike deny'd the gifts of soft repose,  
Laments for Greece: that in his cause before  
So much had suffer'd, and must suffer more  
A leopard's spotted hide his shoulders spread; 35  
A brazen helmet glitter'd on his head:  
Thus (with a jav'lin in his hand) he went  
To wake Atrides in the royal tent.  
Already wak'd, Atrides he descry'd,  
His armour buckling at his vessel's side. 40  
Joyful they met; the Spartan thus begun:  
Why puts my brother his bright armour on?  
Sends he some spy, amidst these silent hours,  
To try yon camp, and watch the Trojan pow'rs?  
But say, what hero shall sustain that task? 45  
Such bold exploits uncommon courage ask;  
Guideless, alone, thro' night's dark shade to go,  
And 'midst a hostile camp explore the foe?

To whom the king: In such distress we stand,  
No vulgar counsels our affairs demand; 50

Greece



Greece to preserve, is now no easy part,  
 But asks high wisdom, deep design, and art.  
 For Jove averse our humble pray'r denies,  
 And bows his head to Hector's sacrifice.  
 What eye has witness'd, or what ear believ'd,  
 In one great day, by one great arm achiev'd,  
 Such wondrous deeds as Hector's hand has done,  
 And we beheld, the last revolving sun?

55

What honours the belov'd of Jove adorn!  
 Sprung from no God, and of no Goddess born;  
 Yet such his acts, as Greeks unborn shall tell,  
 And curse the battle where their fathers fell.

60

Now speed thy hasty course along the fleet,  
 There call great Ajax, and the prince of Crete;  
 Ourself to hoary Nestor will repair;  
 To keep the guards on duty, be his care;  
 (For Nestor's influence best that quarter guides,  
 Whose son, with Merion, o'er the watch presides.)  
 To whom the Spartan: These thy orders borne,  
 Say, shall I stay, or with dispatch return?  
 There shalt thou stay, (the king of men reply'd),  
 Else may we miss to meet, without a guide,  
 The paths so many, and the camp so wide.  
 Still, with your voice, the slothful soldiers raise,  
 Urge by their fathers fame, their future praise.  
 Forget we now our state and lofty birth;

65

70

}

75

Not titles here, but works, must prove our worth.  
 To labour is the lot of man below;  
 And when Jove gave us life, he gave us woe.

This said, each parted to his sev'ral cares;  
 The king to Nestor's sable ship repairs;  
 The sage protector of the Greeks he found  
 Stretch'd in his bed, with all his arms around;  
 The various-colour'd scarf, the shield he rears,  
 The shining helmet, and the pointed spears:  
 The dreadful weapons of the warrior's rage,  
 That, old in arms, disdain'd the peace of age.  
 Then leaning on his hand his watchful head,  
 The hoary monarch rais'd his eyes, and said:

80

85

What art thou, speak, that on designs unknown,  
 While others sleep, thus range the camp alone?

90

Seek't



Seek'st thou some friend, or nightly centinel?  
Stand off, approach not, but thy purpose tell.

O son of Neleus, (thus the king rejoin'd),  
Pride of the Greeks, and glory of thy kind! 95

Lo here the wretched Agamemnon stands,  
Th' unhappy gen'ral of the Grecian bands;  
Whom Jove decrees with daily cares to bend,  
And woes, that only with his life shall end!  
Scarce can my knees these trembling limbs sustain, 100  
And scarce my heart support its load of pain.

No taste of sleep these heavy eyes have known;  
Confus'd, and sad, I wander thus alone,  
With fears distracted, with no fix'd design;  
And all my people's miseries are mine. 105

If ought of use thy waking thoughts suggest, —  
(Since cares, like mine, deprive thy soul of rest), —  
Impart thy counsel, and assist thy friend;  
Now let us jointly to the trench descend,  
At ev'ry gate the fainting guard excite, 110  
Tir'd with the toils of day and watch of night:  
Else may the sudden foe our works invade,  
So near, and favour'd by the gloomy shade.

To him thus Nestor: Trust the pow'rs above,  
Nor think proud Hector's hopes confirm'd by Jove: 115  
How ill agree the views of vain mankind,  
And the wise counsels of th' eternal mind!

Audacious Hector, if the Gods ordain  
That great Achilles rise and rage again,  
What toils attend thee, and what woes remain? 120

Lo faithful Nestor thy command obeys;  
The care is next our other chiefs to raise:  
Ulysses, Diomed we chiefly need;  
Meges for strength, Oileus fam'd for speed,  
Some other be dispatch'd, of nimbler feet, 125

To those tall ships, remotest of the fleet,  
Where lie great Ajax, and the king of Crete,  
To rouse the Spartan I myself decree;  
Dear as he is to us, and dear to thee,  
Yet must I tax his sloth, that claims no share 130  
With his great brother in his martial care:

Him it behov'd to ev'ry chief to sue,  
Breventing ev'ry part perform'd by you;



For strong necessity our toils demands,  
Claims all our hearts, and urges all our hands. 135

To whom the king : With rev'rence we allow  
Thy just rebukes, yet learn to spare them now.  
My gen'rous brother is of gentle kind,  
He seems remiss, but bears a valiant mind ;  
Thro' too much deference to our sov'reign sway, 140  
Content to follow when we lead the way.

But now, our ills industrious to prevent,  
Long ere the rest, he rose, and fought my tent.  
The chiefs you nam'd, already, at his call,  
Prepare to meet us near the navy wall ; 145  
Assembling there, between the trench and gates,  
Near the night-guards, our chosen council waits.

Then none (said Nestor) shall his rule withstand,  
For great examples justify command.

With that, the venerable warrior rose ; 150  
The shining greaves his manly legs inclose ;  
His purple mantle golden buckles join'd,  
Warm with the softest wool, and doubly lin'd.  
Then rushing from his tent, he snatch'd in haste  
His steely lance, that lighten'd as he past. 155  
The camp he travers'd thro' the sleeping croud,  
Stopt at Ulysses' tent, and call'd aloud.

Ulysses, sudden as the voice was sent,  
Awakes, starts up, and issues from his tent.  
What new distress, what sudden cause of fright, 160  
Thus leads you wand'ring in the silent night ?  
O prudent chief ! (the Pylian sage reply'd),  
Wise as thou art, be now thy wisdom try'd :  
Whatever means of safety can be sought,  
Whatever counsels can inspire our thought, 165  
Whatever methods, or to fly or fight ;  
All, all depend on this important night !

He heard, return'd, and took his painted shield :  
Then join'd the chiefs, and follow'd thro' the field.  
Without his tent, bold Diomed they found, 170  
All sheath'd in arms, his brave companions round :  
Each sunk in sleep, extended on the field,  
His head reclining on his bossy shield.  
A wood of spears stood by, that fix'd upright,  
Shot from their flashing points a quiv'ring light. 175



A bull's black hide compos'd the hero's bed ;  
 A splendid carpet roll'd beneath his head.  
 Then, with his foot, old Nestor gently shakes  
 The slumb'ring chief, and in these words awakes.

Rise, son of Tydeus ! to the brave and strong 180  
 Rest seems inglorious, and the night too long,  
 But sleep'st thou now ! when from yon hill the foe  
 Hangs o'er the fleet, and shades our walls below ?

At this, soft slumber from his eye-lids fled :  
 The warrior saw the hoary chief, and said, 185  
 Wondrous old man ! whose soul no respite knows,  
 Tho' years and honours bid thee seek repose.  
 Let younger Greeks our sleeping warriors wake ;  
 Ill fits thy age these toils to undertake.

My friend, (he answer'd), gen'rous is thy care, 190  
 These toils, my subjects and my sons might bear,  
 Their loyal thoughts and pious loves conspire  
 To ease a sov'reign, and relieve a fire.

But now the last despair surrounds our host ;  
 No hour must pass, no moment must be lost ; 195  
 Each single Greek, in this conclusive strife,  
 Stands on the sharpest edge of death or life :  
 Yet if my years thy kind regard engage,  
 Employ thy youth as I employ my age ;  
 Succeed to these my cares, and rouse the rest ; 200  
 He serves me most, who serves his country best.

This said, the hero o'er his shoulders flung  
 A lion's spoils that to his ancles hung ;  
 Then seiz'd his pond'rous lance, and strode along. }  
 Meges the bold, with Ajax fam'd for speed, 205  
 The warrior rous'd, and to th' intrenchments led.

And now the chiefs approach the nightly guard ;  
 A wakeful squadron, each in arms prepar'd :  
 Th' unwearied watch their list'ning leaders keep,  
 And couching close, repel invading sleep. 210

So faithful dogs their fleecy charge maintain,  
 With toil protected from the prowling train ;  
 When the gaunt lioness, with hunger bold,  
 Springs from the mountains tow'rd the guarded fold :  
 Thro' breaking woods her rustling course they hear ; 215  
 Loud, and more loud, the clamours strike their ear,



Of hounds and men ; they start, they gaze around,  
 Watch ev'ry side, and turn to ev'ry sound.  
 Thus watch'd the Grecians, cautious of surprise,  
 Each voice, each motion, drew their ears and eyes ; 220  
 Each step of passing feet increas'd th' affright ;  
 And hostile Troy was ever full in sight.  
 Nestor with joy the wakeful band survey'd,  
 And thus accosted thro' the gloomy shade.  
 'Tis well, my sons ! your nightly cares employ, 225  
 Else must our host become the scorn of Troy.  
 Watch thus, and Greece shall live——The hero said ;  
 Then o'er the trench the following chieftians led.  
 His son, and godlike Merion march'd behind.  
 (For these the princes to their council join'd). 230  
 The trenches pass'd, th' assembled kings around  
 In silent state the consistory crown'd.  
 A place there was yet undefil'd with gore,  
 The spot where Hector stopt his rage before,  
 When night descending, from his vengeful hand, 235  
 Repriev'd the relics of the Grecian band :  
 (The plain beside with mangled corpse was spread,  
 And all his progress mark'd by heaps of dead.)  
 There sat the mournful kings : when Neleus' son  
 The council opening, in these words begun : 240  
     Is there (said he) a chief so greatly brave,  
 His life to hazard, and his country save ?  
 Lives there a man, who singly dares to go  
 To yonder camp, or seize some straggling foe ?  
 Or favour'd by the night approach so near, 245  
 Their speech, their counsels, and designs to hear ?  
 If to besiege our navies they prepare,  
 Or Troy once more must be the seat of war ?  
 This could he learn, and to our peers recite,  
 And pass unharm'd the dangers of the night ; 250  
 What fame were his thro' all-succeeding days,  
 While Phœbus shines, or men have tongues to praise ?  
 What gifts his grateful country would bestow ?  
 What must not Greece to her deliv'rer owe ?  
 A fable ewe each leader should provide, 255  
 With each a fable lambkin by her side ;  
 At ev'ry rite his share should be increas'd,  
 And his the foremost honours of the feast.

Fear



Fear held them mute : alone, untaught to fear,  
Tydides spoke——The man you seek is here. 260  
Thro' yon black camps to bend my dang'rous way,  
Some God within commands, and I obey.  
But let some other chosen warrior join,  
To raise my hopes, and second my design.  
By mutual confidence, and mutual aid, 265  
Great deeds are done, and great discov'ries made ;  
The wise new prudence from the wise acquire,  
And one brave hero fans another's fire.

Contending leaders at the word arose :  
Each gen'rous breast with emulation glows : 270  
So brave a task each Ajax strove to share,  
Bold Merion strove, and Nestor's valiant heir ;  
The Spartan wish'd the second place to gain,  
And great Ulysses wish'd, nor wish'd in vain.  
Then thus the king of men the contest ends : 275  
Thou first of warriors, and thou best of friends,  
Undaunted Diomed ! what chief to join  
In this great enterprise, is only thine,  
Just be thy choice, without affection made ;  
To birth, or office, no respect be paid : 280  
Let worth determine here. The monarch spake,  
And inly trembled for his brother's sake.

Then thus (the godlike Diomed rejoin'd)  
My choice declares the impulse of my mind :  
How can I doubt, while great Ulysses stands 285  
To lend his counsels, and assist our hands ?  
A chief, whose safety is Minerva's care ;  
So fam'd, so dreadful, in the works of war ;  
Bless'd in his conduct, I no aid require ;  
Wisdom like his might pass thro' flames of fire. 290

It fits thee not, before these chiefs of fame,  
(Reply'd the sage), to praise me, or to blame :  
Praise from a friend, or censure from a foe,  
Are lost on hearers that our merits know.  
But let us haste——Night rolls the hours away, 295  
The redd'ning orient shews the coming day,  
The stars shine fainter on th' æthereal plains,  
And of Night's empire but a third remains.

Thus having spoke, with gen'rous ardour press'd,  
In arms terrific their huge limbs they dress'd. 300



A two-edg'd faulchion Thraſymed the brave,  
 And ample buckler, to Tydides gave ;  
 Then in a leathern helm he caſ'd his head,  
 Short of its creſt, and with no plume o'erſpread ;  
 (Such as by youths unus'd to arms, are worn ; 305  
 No ſpoils enrich it, and no ſtuds adorn.)  
 Next him Ulyſſes took a ſhining ſword,  
 A bow and quiver, with bright arrows ſtor'd :  
 A well-prov'd caſque, with leather braces bound,  
 (Thy gift, Meriones), his temples crown'd ; 310  
 Soft wool within ; without, in-order ſpread,  
 A boar's white teeth grin'd horrid o'er his head.  
 This from Amyntor, rich Ormenus' ſon,  
 Autolychus by fraudulent rapine won,  
 And gave Amphidamas ; from him the prize 315  
 Molus receiv'd, the pledge of ſocial ties ;  
 The helmet next by Merion was poſſeſs'd,  
 And now Ulyſſes' thoughtful temples preſs'd.  
 Thus ſheath'd in arms, the council they forſake,  
 And dark through paths oblique their progreſs take. 320  
 Juſt then, in ſign, ſhe favour'd their intent,  
 A long-wing'd heron great Minerva ſent :  
 Thus, tho' ſurrounding ſhades obſcur'd their view,  
 By the ſhrill clang and whiſtling wings, they knew.  
 As from the right ſhe ſoar'd, Ulyſſes pray'd, 325  
 Hail'd the glad omen, and addreſs'd the maid :  
 O daughter of that God, whoſe arm can wield  
 Th' avenging bolt, and ſhake the dreadful ſhield !  
 O thou ! for ever preſent in my way,  
 Who all my motions, all my toils ſurvey ! 330  
 Safe may we paſs beneath the gloomy ſhade,  
 Safe by thy ſuccour to our ſhips convey'd ;  
 And let ſome deed this ſignal night adorn,  
 To claim the tears of Trojans yet unborn.  
 Then godlike Diomed preferr'd his pray'r : 335  
 Daughter of Jove, unconquer'd Pallas ; hear :  
 Great queen of arms, whoſe favour Tydeus won,  
 As thou defend'ſt the fire, defend the ſon.  
 When on Æſopus' banks the banded pow'rs  
 Of Greece he left, and fought the Theban tow'rs, 340  
 Peace was his charge ; receiv'd with peaceful ſhow,  
 He went a legate, but return'd a foe :

Then



Then help'd by thee, and cover'd by thy shield,  
He fought with numbers, and made numbers yield.  
So now be present, oh celestial maid ! 345

So still continue to the race thine aid !  
A youthful steer shall fall beneath the stroke,  
Untam'd, unconscious of the galling yoke,  
With ample forehead, and with spreading horns,  
Whose taper tops refulgent gold adorns. — 350

The heroes pray'd, and Pallas from the skies,  
Accords their vow, succeeds their enterprise.  
Now, like two lions panting for the prey,  
With deathful thoughts they trace the dreary way,  
Thro' the black horrors of th' ensanguin'd plain, 355  
Thro' dust, thro' blood, o'er arms, and hills of slain.

Nor less bold Hector, and the sons of Troy,  
On high designs the wakeful hours employ ;  
Th' assembled peers their lofty chief inclos'd ;  
Who thus the counsels of his breast propos'd : 360

What glorious man, for high attempts prepar'd,  
Dares greatly venture for a rich reward ?  
Of yonder fleet, a bold discov'ry make,  
What watch they keep, and what resolves they take ?  
If now subdu'd, they meditate their flight, 365  
And spent with toil, neglect the watch of night ?  
His be the chariot that shall please him most,  
Of all the plunder of the vanquish'd host ;  
His the fair steeds that all the rest excel,  
And his the glory to have serv'd so well. 370

A youth there was among the tribes of Troy,  
Dolon his name, Eumedes' only boy.  
(Five girls beside the rev'rend herald told),  
Rich was the son in brags, and rich in gold ;  
Not bless'd by nature with the charms of face, 375  
But swift of foot, and matchless in the race.  
Hector ! (he said), my courage bids me meet  
This high atchievment, and explore the fleet :  
But first exalt thy sceptre to the skies,  
And swear to grant me the demanded prize ; 380  
Th' immortal courfers, and the glitt'ring car,  
That bear Pelides thro' the ranks of war.  
Encourag'd thus, no idle scout I go,  
Fulfil thy wish, their whole intention know,

Ev'n



Ev'n to the royal tent pursue my way, 385  
And all their counsels, all their aims betray.

The chief then heav'd the golden sceptre high,  
Attesting thus the monarch of the sky.  
Be witness thou! immortal Lord of all!  
Whose thunder shakes the dark æreal hall: 390  
By none but Dolon shall this prize be borne,  
And him alone th' immortal steeds adorn.

Thus Hector swore: the Gods were call'd in vain;  
But the rash youth prepares to scour the plain:  
Across his back the bended bow he flung, 395  
A wolf's grey hide around his shoulders hung,  
A ferret's downy fur his helmet lin'd,  
And in his hand a pointed jav'lin shin'd.  
Then (never to return) he fought the shore,  
And trod the path his feet must tread no more. 400  
Scarce had he pass'd the steeds and Trojan throng,  
(Still bending forward as he cours'd along),  
When, on the hollow way, th' approaching tread  
Ulysses mark'd, and thus to Diomed:

O friend! I hear some step of hostile feet, 405  
Moving this way, or hast'ning to the fleet;  
Some spy, perhaps, to lurk beside the main;  
Or nightly pillager that strips the slain.  
Yet let him pass, and win a little space;  
Then rush behind him, and prevent his pace. 410  
But if too swift of foot he flies before,  
Confine his course along the fleet and shore,  
Betwixt the camp and him our spears employ,  
And intercept his hop'd return to Troy.

With that they stepp'd aside, and stoop'd their head,  
(As Dolon pass'd), behind a heap of dead: 416  
Along the path the spy unwary flew;  
Soft, at just distance, both the chiefs pursue.  
So distant they, and such the space between,  
As when two teams of mules divide the green, 420  
(To whom the hind like shares of lands allows),  
When now new furrows part th' approaching ploughs.  
Now Dolon list'ning heard them as they past;  
Hector (he thought) had sent, and check'd his haste,  
Till scarce at distance of a jav'lin's throw, 425  
No voice succeeding, he perceiv'd the foe.

As



As when two skilful hounds the lev'et wind,  
Or chace thro' woods obscure the trembling hind ;  
Now lost, now seen, they intercept his way,  
And from the herd still turn the flying prey : 430  
So fast, and with such fears the Trojan flew ;  
So close, so constant, the bold Greeks pursue.  
Now almost on the fleet the dastard falls,  
And mingles with the guards that watch the walls ?  
When brave Tydides stop'd ; a gen'rous thought 435  
(Inspir'd by Pallas) in his bosom wrought,  
Left on the foe some forward Greek advance,  
And snatch the glory from his lifted lance.  
Then thus aloud : Whoe'er thou art, remain ;  
This jav'lin else shall fix thee to the plain. 440  
He said, and high in air the weapon cast,  
Which wilful err'd, and o'er his shoulder past ;  
Then fix'd in earth. Against the trembling wood  
The wretch stood prop'd, and quiver'd as he stood.  
A sudden palsy seiz'd his turning head ; 445  
His loose teeth chatter'd, and his colour fled :  
The panting warriors seize him as he stands,  
And with unmanly tears his life demands.

O spare my youth, and for the breath I owe,  
Large gifts of price my father shall bestow. 450  
Vast heaps of brass shall in your ships be told,  
And steel well-temper'd, and refulgent gold.

To whom Ulysses made this wise reply :  
Whoe'er thou art, be bold, nor fear to die.  
What moves thee, say, when sleep has clos'd the sight,  
To roam the silent fields in dead of night ? 456  
Cam'st thou the secrets of our camp to find,  
By Hector prompted, or thy daring mind ?  
Or art some wretch by hopes of plunder led,  
Thro' heaps of carnage, to despoil the dead ? 460

Then thus pale Dolon with a fearful look,  
(Still, as he spoke, his limbs with horror shook) :  
Hither I came, by Hector's words deceiv'd ;  
Much did he promise, rashly I believ'd :  
No less a bribe than great Achilles car, 465  
And those swift steeds that sweep the ranks of war,  
Urg'd me, unwilling, this attempt to make ;  
To learn what counsels, what resolves you take :

If



If now subdu'd, you fix your hopes on flight,  
And tir'd with toils, neglect the watch of night. 470

Bold was thy aim, and glorious was the prize,  
(Ulysses, with a scornful smile replies) :

Far other rulers these proud steeds demand,  
And scorn the guidance of a vulgar hand ;

Ev'n great Achilles scarce their rage can tame, 475  
Achilles sprung from an immortal dame.

But say, be faithful, and the truth recite !

Where lies encamp'd the Trojan chief to-night ?

Where stand his courfers ? in what quarter sleep

Their other princes ? tell what watch they keep ? 480

Say, since this conquest, what their counsels are ;

Or here to combat, from their city far,

Or back to Ilion's walls transfer the war ?

Ulysses thus, and thus Eumedes' son :

What Dolon knows, his faithful tongue shall own. 485

Hector, the peers assembling in his tent,

A council holds at Ilus' monument.

No certain guards the nightly watch partake ;

Where e'er yon fires ascend, the Trojans wake :

Anxious for Troy, the guard the natives keep ; 490

Safe in their cares, th' auxiliar forces sleep,

Whose wives and infants, from the danger far,

Discharge their souls of half the fears of war.

Then sleep those aids among the Trojan train,

(Inquir'd the chief), or scatter'd o'er the plain ? 495

To whom the spy : Their pow'rs they thus dispose :

The Pæons, dreadful with their bended bows,

The Carians, Caucons, the Pelasgian host,

And Leleges encamp along the coast.

Not distant far, lie higher on the land, 500

The Lycian, Mysian, and Mæonian band,

And Phrygia's horse, by Thymbras' ancient wall ;

The Thracians utmost, and apart from all.

These Troy but lately to her succour won,

Led on by Rhesus, great Eioneus' son : 505

I saw his courfers in proud triumph go,

Swift as the wind, and white as winter-snow :

Rich silver plates his shining car infold :

His solid arms, refulgent, flame with gold ;



No mortal shoulders suit the glorious load,  
Celestial panoply, to grace a God ! 510

Let me, unhappy, to your fleet be borne,  
Or leave me here a captive's fate to mourn,  
In cruel chains ; till your return reveal  
The truth or falsehood of the news I tell. 515

To this Tydides, with a gloomy frown :  
Think not to live, tho' all the truth be shown :  
Shall we dismiss thee, in some future strife,  
To risk more bravely thy now forfeit life ?  
Or that again our camps thou mayst explore ! 520  
No—once a traitor, thou betray'st no more.

Sternly he spoke, and as the wretch prepar'd,  
With humble blandishment, to stroke his beard,  
Like lightning swift the wrathful faulchion flew,  
Divides the neck, and cuts the nerves in two ; 525  
One instant snatch'd his trembling soul to hell,  
The head, yet speaking, mutter'd as it fell.  
The furry helmet from his brow they tear,  
The wolf's grey hide, th' unbended bow and spear :  
These great Ulysses lifting to the skies, 530  
To fav'ring Pallas dedicates the prize :

Great queen of arms ! receive this hostile spoil,  
And let the Thracian steeds reward our toil :  
Thee first of all the heav'nly host we praise ;  
O speed our labours, and direct our ways ! 535  
This said, the spoils with dropping gore defac'd,  
High on a spreading tamarisk he plac'd ;  
Then heap'd with reeds, and gather'd boughs the plain,  
To guide their footsteps to the place again. 539

Thro' the still night they cross the devious fields,  
Slipp'ry with blood, o'er arms and heaps of shields,  
Arriving where the Thracian squadrons lay,  
And eas'd in sleep the labours of the day.  
Rang'd in three lines they view the prostrate band ;  
The horses yok'd beside each warrior stand ; 545  
Their arms in order on the ground reclin'd,  
Thro' the brown shade the fulgid weapons shin'd ;  
Amidst lay Rhesus, stretch'd in sleep profound,  
And the white steeds behind his chariot bound.



The welcome sight Ulysses first descries, 550  
And points to Diomed the tempting prize.

The man, the courfers, and the car behold !  
Describ'd by Dolon, with the arms of gold.  
Now, brave Tydides ! now thy courage try,  
Approach the chariot, and the steeds untie ; 555  
Or if thy soul aspire to fiercer deeds,  
Urge thou the slaughter, while I seize the steeds.

Pallas (this said) her hero's bosom warms,  
Breath'd in his heart, and strung his nervous arms ;  
Where-e'er he pass'd, a purple stream pursu'd ; 560  
His thirsty faulchion, fat with hostile blood,  
Bath'd all his footsteps, dy'd the fields with gore,  
And a low groan remurmur'd thro' the shore.

So the grim lion, from his nightly den,  
O'erleaps the fences, and invades the pen ; 565  
On sheep or goats, resistless in his way,  
He falls, and foaming rends the guardless prey.  
Nor stopp'd the fury of his vengeful hand,  
Till twelve lay breathless of the Thracian band.

Ulysses following, as his partner flew, 570  
Back by the foot each slaughter'd warrior drew ;  
The milk-white courfers studious to convey  
Safe to the ships, he wisely clear'd the way ;  
Lest the fierce steeds, not yet to battles bred,  
Should start, and tremble at the heaps of dead. 575

Now twelve dispatch'd, the monarch last they found ;  
Tydides' faulchion fix'd him to the ground.  
Just then a deathful dream Minerva sent ;  
A warlike form appear'd before his tent,  
Whose visionary steel his bosom tore : 580  
So dream'd the monarch, and awak'd no more.

Ulysses now the snowy steeds detains,  
And leads them, fasten'd by the silver reins ;  
These, with his bow unbent, he lash'd along ;  
(The scourge forgot, on Rhesus' chariot hung.) 585  
Then gave his friend the signal to retire ;  
But him, new dangers, new achievements fire :  
Doubtful he stood, or with his reeking blade  
To send more heroes to th' infernal shade,  
Drag off the car where Rhesus' armour lay, 590  
Or heave with manly force, and lift away.

While



While unresolv'd the son of Tydeus stands,  
Pallas appears, and thus her chief commands:

Enough, my son, from farther slaughter cease,  
Regard thy safety, and depart in peace ; 595  
Haste to the ships, the gotten spoils enjoy,  
Nor tempt too far the hostile Gods of Troy.

The voice divine confess'd the martial maid ;  
In haste he mounted, and her word obey'd ;  
The courfers fly before Ulysses' bow, 600  
Swift as the wind, and white as winter snow.

Not unobserv'd they pass'd : the God of light  
Had watch'd his Troy, and mark'd Minerva's flight,  
Saw Tydeus' son with heav'nly succour blest'd,  
And vengeful anger fill'd his sacred breast. 605

Swift to the Trojan camp descends the pow'r,  
And wakes Hippocoön in the morning hour,  
(On Rhesus' side accustom'd to attend,  
A faithful kinsman, and instructive friend.)

He rose, and saw the field deform'd with blood, 610  
An empty space where late the courfers stood,  
The yet-warm Thracians panting on the coast ;  
For each he wept, but for his Rhesus most :

Now while on Rhesus' name he calls in vain,  
The gath'ring tumult spreads o'er all the plain ; 615  
On heaps the Trojans rush, with wild affright,  
And wond'ring view the slaughters of the night.

Mean-while the chiefs, arriving at the shade  
Where late the spoils of Hector's spy were laid,  
Ulysses stopp'd ; to him Tydides bore 620

The trophy, dropping yet with Dolon's gore :  
Then mounts again ; again their nimble feet  
The courfers ply, and thunder tow'rd's the fleet.

Old Nestor first perceiv'd th' approaching sound,  
Bespeaking thus the Grecian peers around. 625

Methinks the noise of trampling steeds I hear,  
Thick'ning this way, and gath'ring on my ear ;  
Perhaps some horses of the Trojan breed

(So may, ye Gods ! my pious hopes succeed)  
The great Tydides and Ulysses bear, 630

Return'd, triumphant with this prize of war.

Yet much I fear, (ah may that fear be vain)

The chiefs out-number'd by the Trojan train ;



Perhaps, ev'n now pursu'd, they seek the shore ;  
Or oh ! perhaps those heroes are no more. 635

Scarce had he spoke, when lo ! the chiefs appear,  
And spring to earth ; the Greeks dismiss their fear :  
With words of friendship and extended hands  
They greet the kings ; and Nestor first demands :

Say thou, whose praises all our host proclaim, 640  
Thou living glory of the Grecian name !  
Say whence these courfers ? by what chance bestow'd,  
The spoil of foes, or present of a God ?  
Not those fair steeds so radiant and so gay,  
That draw the burning chariot of the day. 645

Old as I am, to age I scorn to yield,  
And daily mingle in the martial field ;  
But sure till now no courfers struck my fight  
Like these, conspicuous thro' the ranks of fight.  
Some God, I deem, conferr'd the glorious prize, 650  
Blest as ye are, and fav'rites of the skies ;  
The care of him who bids the thunder roar,  
And her \*, whose fury bathes the world with gore.

Father ! not so, (sage Ithacus rejoin'd,  
The gifts of heav'n are of a nobler kind), 655  
Of Thracian lineage are the steeds ye view,  
Whose hostile king the brave Tydides slew ;  
Sleeping he dy'd, with all his guards around,  
And twelve beside lay gasping on th' ground.  
These other spoils from conquer'd Dolon came, 660  
A wretch, whose swiftness was his only fame,  
By Hector sent our forces to explore,  
He now lies headless on the sandy shore.

Then o'er the trench the bounding courfers flew ;  
The joyful Greeks with loud acclaim pursue, 665  
Straight to Tydides' high pavilion borne,  
The matchless steeds his ample stall adorn :  
The neighing courfers their new fellows greet,  
And the full racks are heap'd with gen'rous wheat.  
But Dolon's armour, to his ships convey'd, 670  
High on the painted stern Ulysses laid,  
A trophy destin'd to the blue-ey'd maid. }

Now from nocturnal sweat, and sanguine stain,  
They cleanse their bodies in the neighb'ring main :

Then

\* Minerva.



Then in the polish'd bath, refresh'd from toil, 675  
Their joints they supple with dissolving oil,  
In due repast indulge the genial hour,  
And first to Pallas the libations pour;  
They sit, rejoicing in her aid divine,  
And the crown'd goblet foams with floods of wine. 680

THE



## I L I A D.

## B O O K XI.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The third battle, and the acts of Agamemnon.

*Agamemnon having armed himself, leads the Grecians to battle: Hector prepares the Trojans to receive them; while Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva give the signals of war. Agamemnon bears all before him; and Hector is commanded by Jupiter (who sends Iris for that purpose) to decline the engagement till the king shall be wounded and retire from the field. He then makes a great slaughter of the enemy; Ulysses and Diomed put a stop to him for a time; but the latter being wounded by Paris, is obliged to desert his companion, who is encompassed by the Trojans, wounded, and in the utmost danger, till Menelaus and Ajax rescue him. Hector comes against Ajax; but that hero alone opposes multitudes and rallies the Greeks. In the meantime Machaon, in the other wing of the army, is pierced with an arrow by Paris, and carried from the fight in Nestor's chariot. Achilles (who overlooked the action from his ship) sent Patroclus to enquire which of the Greeks was wounded in that manner? Nestor entertains him in his tent with an account of the accidents of the day, and a long recital of some former wars which he remembered, tending to put Patroclus upon persuading Achilles to fight for his countrymen, or at least to permit him to do it, clad in Achilles' armour. Patroclus in his return meets Eurypylus also wounded, and assists him in that distress.*

*This book opens with the eight and twentieth day of the poem; and the same day, with its various actions and adventures, is extended through the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, and part of the eighteenth books. The scene lies in the field near the monument of Ilus.*

**T**HE saffron morn, with early blushes spread,  
Now rose refulgent from Tithonus' bed:

With



With new-born day to gladden mortal fight,  
 And gild the courts of heav'n with sacred light!  
 When baleful Eris, sent by Jove's command, 5  
 The torch of discord blazing in her hand,  
 Thro' the red skies her bloody sign extends,  
 And wrapt in tempests, o'er the fleet descends.  
 High on Ulysses' bark, her horrid stand  
 She took, and thunder'd thro' the seas and land. 10  
 Ev'n Ajax and Achilles heard the sound,  
 Whose ships, remote, the guarded navy bound.  
 Thence the black fury thro' the Grecian throng  
 With horror sounds the loud Orthian song:  
 The navy shakes, and at the dire alarms 15  
 Each bosom boils, each warrior starts to arms.  
 No more they sigh, inglorious to return,  
 But breathe revenge, and for the combat burn.

The king of men his hardy host inspires,  
 With loud command, with great example fires; 20  
 Himself first rose, himself before the rest  
 His mighty limbs in radiant armour drest.  
 And first he cas'd his manly legs around  
 In shining greaves, with silver buckles bound:  
 The beaming cuirass next adorn'd his breast, 25  
 The same which once king Cinyras possess'd:  
 (The fame of Greece and her assembled host  
 Had reach'd that monarch on the Cyprian coast;  
 'Twas then the friendship of the chief to gain,  
 This glorious gift he sent, nor sent in vain). 30  
 Ten rows of azure steel the work infold,  
 Twice ten of tin, and twelve of ductile gold;  
 Three glitt'ring dragons to the gorget rise,  
 Whose imitated scales, against the skies  
 Reflected various light, and arching bow'd, 35  
 Like colour'd rainbows o'er a show'ry cloud:  
 (Jove's wond'rous bow, of three celestial dyes,  
 Plac'd as a sign to man amid the skies).  
 A radiant baldric o'er his shoulder ty'd,  
 Sustain'd the sword that glitter'd at his side; 40  
 Gold was the hilt, a silver sheath encas'd  
 The shining blade, and golden hangers grac'd.  
 His buckler's mighty orb was next displac'd,  
 That round the warrior cast a dreadful shade;



Ten zones of brass its ample brim furround, 45  
 And twice ten bosses the bright convex crown'd :  
 Tremendous Gorgon frown'd upon its field,  
 And circling terrors fill'd th' expressive shield :  
 Within its concave hung a silver thong,  
 On which a mimic serpent creeps along, 50  
 His azure length in easy waves extends,  
 Till in three heads the embroider'd monster ends.  
 Last o'er his brows his fourfold helm he plac'd,  
 With nodding horse-hair formidably grac'd ;  
 And in his hands two steely jav'lines wields, 55  
 That blaze to heav'n, and lighten all the fields.

That instant Juno, and the martial maid  
 In happy thunders promis'd Greece their aid ;  
 High o'er the chief they clasp'd their arms in air,  
 And leaning from the clouds, expect the war. 60

Close to the limits of the trench and mound,  
 The fiery courfers to their chariots bound,  
 The squires restrain'd : the foot, with those who wield  
 The lighter arms, rush forward to the field.  
 To second these, in close array combin'd, 65  
 The squadrons spread their sable wings behind :  
 Now shouts and tumults wake the tardy sun,  
 As with the light the warriors toils begun,  
 Ev'n Jove, whose thunder spoke his wrath, distill'd  
 Red drops of blood o'er all the fatal field ; 70  
 The woes of men unwilling to survey,  
 And all the slaughters that must stain the day.

Near Ilus' tomb in order rang'd around,  
 The Trojan lines possess'd the rising ground.  
 There wise Polydamas and Hector stood ; 75  
 Æneas, honour'd as a guardian God ;  
 Bold Polybus, Agenor the divine ;  
 The brother-warriors of Antenor's line ;  
 With youthful Acomas, whose beauteous face,  
 And fair proportion, match'd th' æthereal race ; 80  
 Great Hector, cover'd with his spacious shield,  
 Plies all the troops, and orders all the field.  
 As the red star now shows his sanguine fires  
 Thro' the dark clouds, and now in night retires ;  
 Thus thro' the ranks appear'd the godlike man, 85  
 Plung'd in the rear, or blazing in the van ;

While



While streamy sparkles, restless as he flies,  
Flash'd from his arms as light'ning from the skies.  
As sweating reapers in some wealthy field,  
Rang'd in two bands, their crooked weapons wield, 90  
Bear down the furrows, till their labours meet ;  
Thick fall the heapy harvests at their feet :  
So Greece and Troy the field of war divide,  
And falling ranks are strow'd on ev'ry side.  
None stoop'd a thought to base inglorious flight ; 95  
But horse to horse, and man to man they fight.  
Not rabid wolves more fierce contest their prey ;  
Each wounds, each bleeds, but none resigns the day.  
Discord with joy the scene of death descries,  
And drinks large slaughter at her sanguine eyes : 100  
Discord alone of all th' immortal train,  
Swells the red horrors of this direful plain ;  
The Gods in peace their golden mansions fill,  
Rang'd in bright order on th' Olympian hill ;  
But gen'ral murmurs told their griefs above, 105  
And each accus'd the partial will of Jove.  
Mean-while apart, superior, and alone,  
Th' eternal monarch, on his awful throne,  
Wrapt in the blaze of boundless glory sat ;  
And fix'd, fulfill'd the just decrees of fate. 110  
On earth he turn'd his all-confid'ring eyes,  
And mark'd the spot where Ilion's tow'rs arise ;  
The sea with ships, the fields with armies spread,  
The victor's rage, the dying, and the dead.  
Thus while the morning-beams increasing bright 115  
O'er heav'n's pure azure spread the growing light,  
Communal death the fate of war confounds,  
Each adverse battle gor'd with equal wounds.  
But now (what time in some sequester'd vale  
The weary woodman spreads his sparing meal, 120  
When his tir'd arms refuse the ax to rear,  
And claim a respite from the sylvan war ;  
But not till half the prostrate forests lay  
Stretch'd in long ruin, and expos'd the day) ;  
Then, nor till then, the Greeks impulsive might 125  
Pierc'd the black phalanx, and let in the light.  
Great Agamemnon then the slaughter led,  
And slew Bienor at his people's head ;

Whose



Whose squire Oileus, with a sudden spring,  
Leap'd from the chariot to revenge his king ; 130  
But in his front he felt the fatal wound,  
Which pierc'd his brain, and stretch'd him on the ground.  
Atrides spoil'd, and left them on the plain :  
Vain was their youth, their glitt'ring armour vain ;  
Now foil'd with dust, and naked to the sky, 135  
Their snowy limbs and beauteous bodies lie.

Two sons of Priam next to battle move,  
The product one of marriage, one of love ;  
In the same car the brother warriors ride,  
This took the charge to combat, that to guide : 140  
Far other task ! than when they wont to keep,  
On Ida's tops their father's fleecy sheep.  
These on the mountains once Achilles found,  
And captive led, with pliant osiers bound ;  
Then to their fire for ample sums restor'd ; 145  
But now to perish by Atrides' sword ;  
Pierc'd in the breast the base-born Isus bleeds :  
Cleft thro' the head his brother's fate succeeds.  
Swift to the spoil the hasty victor falls,  
And stript, their features to his mind recalls. 150  
The Trojans see the youths untimely die,  
But helpless tremble for themselves, and fly.  
So when a lion, ranging o'er the lawns,  
Finds, on some grassy lair, the couching fawns,  
Their bones he cracks, their reeking vitals draws, 155  
And grinds the quiv'ring flesh with bloody jaws ;  
The frightened hind beholds, and dares not stay,  
But swift thro' rustling thickets bursts her way ;  
All drown'd in sweat the panting mother flies,  
And the big tears roll trickling from her eyes. 160

Amidst the tumult of the routed train,  
The sons of false Antimachus were slain ;  
He, who for bribes his faithless counsels sold,  
And voted Helen's stay for Paris' gold,  
Atrides mark'd, as these their safety fought, 165  
And slew the children for the father's fault ;  
Their headstrong horse unable to restrain,  
They shook with fear, and dropp'd the silken rein :  
Then



Then in their chariot on their knees they fall,  
And thus with lifted hands for mercy call : 170

Oh spare our youth, and for the life we owe,  
Antimachus shall copious gifts bestow,  
Soon as he hears, that, not in battle slain,  
The Grecian ships his captive sons detain,  
Large heaps of brass in ransom shall be told, 175  
And steel well-temper'd, and persuasive gold.

These words, attended with a flood of tears,  
The youths address'd to unrelenting ears :  
The vengeful monarch gave this stern reply ;  
If from Antimachus ye spring, ye die :. 180  
The daring wretch who once in council stood  
To shed Ulysses' and my brother's blood,  
For proffer'd peace ! and sues his seed for grace !  
No, die, and pay the forfeit of your race.

This said, Pisander from the car he cast, 185  
And pierc'd his breast ; supine he breath'd his last.  
His brother leap'd to earth ; but as he lay,  
The trenchant faulchion lopp'd his hands away ;  
His sever'd head was toss'd among the throng,  
And rolling, drew a bloody trail along. 190

Then, where the thickest fought, the victor flew ;  
The king's example all his Greeks pursue.  
Now by the foot the flying foot were slain,  
Horse trod by horse, lay foaming on the plain.  
From the dry fields thick clouds of dust arise, 195  
Shade the black host, and intercept the skies.

The brass-hoof'd steeds tumultuous plunge and bound,  
And the thick thunder beats the lab'ring ground.  
Still slaught'ring on, the king of men proceeds ;  
The distanc'd army wonders at his deeds. 200

As when the winds with raging flames conspire,  
And o'er the forests roll the flood of fire,  
In blazing heaps the grove's old honours fall,  
And one refulgent ruin levels all :

Before Atrides' rage so sinks the foe, 205  
Whole squadrons vanish, and proud heads lie low :  
The steeds fly trembling from his waving sword ;  
And many a car, now lighted of its lord,  
Wide o'er the field with guideless fury rolls,  
Breaking their ranks, and crushing out their souls ; 210

While



While his keen faulchion drinks the warriors lives;  
More grateful, now, to vultures than their wives!

Perhaps great Hector then had found his fate,  
But Jove and destiny prolong'd his date.  
Safe from the darts, the care of heav'n he stood, 215  
Amidst alarms, and death, and dust, and blood.  
Now past the tomb where ancient Ilus lay,  
Thro' the mid field the routed urge their way:  
Where the wild figs th' adjoining summit crown,  
That path they take, and speed to reach the town. 220  
As swift Atrides with loud shouts pursu'd,  
Hot with his toil, and bath'd in hostile blood.  
Now near the beech-tree and the Scæan gates,  
The hero halts, and his associates waits.

Mean-while on ev'ry side, around the plain, 225  
Dispers'd, disorder'd, fly the Trojan train.  
So flies a herd of beeves, that hear dismay'd  
The lion's roaring thro' the midnight-shade;  
On heaps they tumble with successless haste;  
The savage seizes, draws, and rends the last: 230  
Not with less fury stern Atrides flew,  
Still press'd the rout, and still the hindmost flew;  
Hurl'd from their cars the bravest chiefs are kill'd,  
And rage, and death, and carnage, load the field.

Now forms the victor at the Trojan wall; 235  
Surveys the tow'rs, and meditates their fall.  
But Jove descending shook th' Idæan hills,  
And down their summits pour'd a hundred rills:  
Th' unkindled lightning in his hand he took,  
And thus the many colour'd maid bespoke: 240

Iris, with haste thy golden wings display,  
To godlike Hector this our word convey:  
While Agamemnon wastes the ranks around,  
Fights in the front, and bathes with blood the ground,  
Bid him give way; but issue forth commands, 245  
And trust the war to less important hands:  
But when, or wounded by the spear, or dart,  
That chief shall mount his chariot, and depart;  
Then Jove shall string his arm, and fire his breast,  
Then to her ships shall flying Greece be prest, 250  
Till to the main the burning sun descend,  
And sacred night her awful shade extend.



He spoke, and Iris at his word obey'd;  
On wings of winds descends the various maid.  
The chief she found amidst the ranks of war, 255  
Close to the bulwarks, on his glitt'ring car.  
The Goddess then: O son of Priam hear!  
From Jove I come, and his high mandate bear.  
While Agamemnon wastes the ranks around,  
Fights in the front, and bathes with blood the ground,  
Abstain from fight; yet issue forth commands, 261  
And trust the war to less important hands.  
But when, or wounded by the spear or dart,  
The chief shall mount his chariot, and depart;  
Then Jove shall string thy arm, and fire thy breast, 265  
Then to her ships shall flying Greece be prest,  
Till to the main the burning sun descend,  
And sacred night her awful shade extend.

She said, and vanish'd: Hector, with a bound,  
Springs from his chariot on the trembling ground, 270  
In clanging arms: he grasps in either hand  
A pointed lance, and speeds from band to band;  
Revives their ardour, turns their steps from flight,  
And wakes anew the dying flames of fight.  
They stand to arms: the Greeks their onset dare, 275  
Condense their pow'rs, and wait the coming war.  
New force, new spirit to each breast returns;  
The fight renew'd with fiercer fury burns:  
The king leads on; all fix on him their eye,  
And learn from him, to conquer, or to die. 280

Ye sacred nine, celestial muses! tell,  
Who sac'd him first, and by his prowess fell!  
The great Iphidamas, the bold and young;  
From sage Antenor and Theano sprung;  
Whom from his youth his grandfire Cisseus bred, 285  
And nurs'd in Thrace where snowy flocks are fed,  
Scarce did the down his rosy cheeks invest,  
And early honour warm his gen'rous breast,  
When the kind fire consign'd his daughter's charms  
(Theano's sister) to his youthful arms. 290  
But call'd by glory to the wars of Troy,  
He leaves untasted the first fruits of joy;  
From his lov'd bride departs with melting eyes,  
And swift to aid his dearer country flies.



With twelve black ships he reach'd Percope's strand, 295  
 Thence took the long, laborious march by land.  
 Now fierce for fame, before the ranks he springs,  
 Tow'ring in arms, and braves the king of kings,  
 Atrides first discharg'd the missive spear;  
 The Trojan stoop'd, the jav'lin pass'd in air. 300  
 Then near the corslet, at the monarch's heart,  
 With all his strength the youth directs his dart:  
 But the broad belt, with plates of silver bound,  
 The point rebated, and repell'd the wound.  
 Incumber'd with the dart, Atrides stands, 305  
 Till grasp'd with force, he wrench'd it from his hands,  
 At once his weighty sword discharg'd a wound  
 Full on his neck, that fell'd him to the ground.  
 Stretch'd in the dust th' unhappy warrior lies,  
 And sleep eternal seals his swimming eyes. 310  
 Oh worthy better fate! oh early slain!  
 Thy country's friend; and virtuous tho' in vain!  
 No more the youth shall join his consort's side,  
 At once a virgin, and at once a bride!  
 No more with presents her embraces meet, 315  
 Or lay the spoils of conquest at her feet,  
 On whom his passion, lavish of his store,  
 Bestow'd so much, and vainly promis'd more!  
 Unwept, uncover'd, on the plain he lay,  
 While the proud victor bore his arms away. 320  
 Coön, Antenor's eldest hope, was nigh:  
 Tears, at the sight, came starting from his eye.  
 While pierc'd with grief, the much-lov'd youth he view'd,  
 And the pale features now deform'd with blood.  
 Then with his spear, unseen, his time he took, 325  
 Aim'd at the king, and near his elbow strook.  
 The thrilling steel transpierc'd the brawny part,  
 And thro' his arm stood forth the barbed dart.  
 Surpris'd the monarch feels, yet void of fear  
 On Coön rushes with his lifted spear: 330  
 His brother's corpse the pious Trojan draws,  
 And calls his country to assert his cause,  
 Defends him breathless on the sanguine field,  
 And o'er the body spreads his ample shield.  
 Atrides,



Atrides, marking an unguarded part, 335  
 Transfix'd the warrior with his brazen dart ;  
 Prone on his brother's bleeding breast he lay,  
 The monarch's faulchion lopp'd his head away :  
 The social shades the same dark journey go,  
 And join each other in the realms below. 340

The vengeful victor rages round the fields,  
 With ev'ry weapon art or fury yields :  
 By the long lance, the sword, or pond'rous stone,  
 Whole ranks are broken, and whole troops o'erthrown.  
 This, while yet warm, distill'd the purple flood ; 345  
 But when the wound grew stiff with clotted blood,  
 Then grinding tortures his strong bosom rend,  
 Less keen those darts the fierce Ilythiæ send,  
 (The pow'rs that cause the teeming matron's throes,  
 Sad mothers of unutterable woes !) 350

Stung with the smart, all panting with the pain,  
 He mounts the car, and gives his squire the rein :  
 Then with a voice which fury made more strong,  
 And pain augmented, thus exhorts the throng :

O friends ! O Greeks ! assert your honours won ; 255  
 Proceed, and finish what this arm begun :  
 Lo ! angry Jove forbids your chief to stay,  
 And envies half the glories of the day.

He said ; the driver whirls his lengthful thong ;  
 The horses fly, the chariot smokes along : 360  
 Clouds from their nostrils the fierce couriers blow,  
 And from their sides the foam descends in snow ;  
 Shot thro' the battle in a moment's space,  
 The wounded monarch at his tent they place.

No sooner Hector saw the king retir'd, 365  
 But thus his Trojan, and his aids he fir'd :  
 Hear all ye Dardan, all ye Lycian race !  
 Fam'd in close fight, and dreadful face to face :  
 Now call to mind your ancient trophies won,  
 Your great forefathers virtues, and your own. 370  
 Behold, the gen'ral flies ! deserts his pow'rs !  
 Lo Jove himself declares the conquest ours !  
 Now on yon ranks impel your foaming steeds !  
 And, sure of glory, dare immortal deeds.

With words like these the fiery chief alarms 375  
 His fainting host, and ev'ry bosom warms.



As the bold hunter cheers his hounds to tear  
 The brindled lion, or the tusky bear,  
 With voice and hand provokes their doubting heart,  
 And springs the foremost with his lifted dart : 380  
 So godlike Hector prompts his troops to dare ;  
 Nor prompts alone, but leads himself the war.  
 On the black body of the foes he pours ;  
 As from the cloud's deep bosom, swell'd with show'rs,  
 A sudden storm the purple ocean sweeps, 385  
 Drives the wild waves, and tosses all the deeps.  
 Say, Muse ! when Jove the Trojan's glory crown'd  
 Beneath his arm what heroes bit the ground ?  
 Assæus, Dolops, and Autonous dy'd,  
 Opites next was added to their side, 390  
 Then brave Hipponous fam'd in many a fight,  
 Opheltius, Orus, sunk to endless night,  
 Æsymnus, Agelaus ; all chiefs of name ;  
 The rest were vulgar deaths, unknown to fame.  
 As when a western whirlwind, charg'd with storms, 395  
 Dispels the gather'd clouds that Notus forms ;  
 The gust continu'd violent and strong,  
 Rolls fable clouds in heaps on heaps along ;  
 Now to the skies the foaming billows rears,  
 Now breaks the surge and wide the bottom bares : 400  
 Thus raging Hector, with resistless hands,  
 O'erturns, confounds, and scatters all their bands.  
 Now the last ruin the whole host appalls ;  
 Now Greece had trembled in her wooden walls ;  
 But wise Ulysses call'd Tydides forth, 405  
 His soul rekindled, and awak'd his worth :  
 And stand we deedless, O eternal shame !  
 Till Hector's arm involve the ships in flame ?  
 Haste, let us join, and combat side by side :  
 The warrior thus, and thus the friend reply'd : 410  
 No martial toil I shun, no danger fear ;  
 Let Hector come ; I wait his fury here.  
 But Jove with conquest crowns the Trojan train ;  
 And, Jove our foe, all human force is vain.  
 He sigh'd ; but fighting, rais'd his vengeful steel, 415  
 And from his car the proud Thymbræus fell ;  
 Molion, the charioteer, pursu'd his lord,  
 His death ennobled by Ulysses' sword.

There



There slain, they left them in eternal night ;  
Then plung'd amidst the thickest ranks of fight, 420  
So two wild boars outstrip the following hounds,  
Then swift revert, and wounds return for wounds.  
Stern Hector's conquests in the middle plain  
Stood check'd a while, and Greece respir'd again.

The sons of Merops shone amidst the war ; 425  
Tow'ring they rode in one refulgent car ;  
In deep prophetic arts their father skill'd,  
Had warn'd his children from the Trojan field ;  
Fate urg'd them on ; the father warn'd in vain,  
They rush'd to fight, and perish'd on the plain ! 430  
Their breasts no more the vital spirit warms ;  
The stern Tydides strips their shining arms.  
Hypirochus by great Ulysses dies,  
And rich Hippodamus becomes his prize.

Great Jove from Ida with slaughter fills his sight, 435  
And level hang the doubtful scale of fight.

By Tydeus' lance Agastrophus was slain,  
The far fam'd hero of Pæonian strain ;  
Wing'd with his fears, on foot he strove to fly,  
His steeds too distant, and the foe too high ; 440  
Thro' broken orders, swifter than the wind,  
He fled, but flying, left his life behind.

This Hector sees, as his experienc'd eyes  
Traverse the files, and to the rescue flies ;  
Shouts, as he pass'd, the crystal regions rend, 445  
And moving armies on his march attend.

Great Diomed himself was seiz'd with fear,  
And thus bespoke his brother of the war.

Mark how this way yon bending squadrons yield !  
The storm rolls on, and Hector rules the field : 450  
Here stand his utmost force—The warrior said ;

Swift at the word his pond'rous jav'lin fled ;  
Nor miss'd its aim, but where the plumage danc'd,  
Raz'd the smooth cone, and thence obliquely glanc'd.  
Safe in his helm (the gift of Phœbus' hands) 455

Without a wound the Trojan hero stands ;  
But yet so stunn'd, that stagg'ring on the plain,  
His arm and knee his sinking bulk sustain ;

O'er his dim sight the misty vapours rise,  
And a short darkness shades his swimming eyes. 460



Tydides follow'd to regain his lance;  
 While Hector rose, recover'd from the trance;  
 Remounts his car, and herds amidst the croud.  
 The Greek pursues him, and exults aloud.

Once more thank Phœbus for thy forfeit breath, 465  
 Or thank that swiftness which outstrips the death.  
 Well by Apollo are thy pray'rs repaid,  
 And oft that partial power has lent his aid.  
 Thou shalt not long the death deserv'd withstand,  
 If any God assist Tydides' hand. 470

Fly then, inglorious! but thy flight, this day,  
 Whole hecatombs of Trojan ghosts shall pay.

Him, while he triumph'd, Paris ey'd from far,  
 (The spouse of Helen, the fair cause of war);  
 Around the fields his feather'd shafts he sent, 475  
 From ancient Ilus' ruin'd monument)  
 Behind the column plac'd, he bent his bow,  
 And Wing'd an arrow at the unwary foe;  
 Just as he stoop'd, Agastrophus's crest  
 To seize, and drew the corselet from his breast, 480  
 The bow-string twang'd; nor flew the shaft in vain,  
 But pierc'd his foot, and nail'd it to the plain,  
 The laughing Trojan, with a joyful spring,  
 Leaps from his ambush and insults the king.

He bleeds! (he cries), some God has sped my dart;  
 Would the same God had fix'd it in his heart! 486  
 So Troy reliev'd from that wide-wasting, hand,  
 Should breathe from slaughter, and in combat stand;  
 Whose sons now tremble at his darted spear,  
 As scatter'd lambs the rushing lion fear. 490

He dauntless thus: Thou conqu'ror of the fair,  
 Thou woman-warrior with the curling hair;  
 Vain archer! trusting to the distant dart,  
 Unskill'd in arms to act a manly part!  
 Thou hast but done what boys or women can; 495  
 Such hands may wound, but not incense a man,  
 Nor boast the scratch thy feeble arrow gave,  
 A coward's weapon never hurts the brave.  
 Not so this dart, which thou may'st one day feel:  
 Fate wings its flight, and death is on the steel. 500  
 Where this but lights, some noble life expires;  
 Its touch makes orphans, bathes the cheeks of fires,

Steeps



Steeps earth in purple, gluts the birds of air,  
And leaves such objects as distract the fair.

Ulysses hastens with a trembling heart,  
Before him steps, and bending draws the dart :  
Forth flows the blood ; an eager pang succeeds ;  
Tydides mounts, and to the navy speeds.

Now on the field Ulysses stands alone,  
The Greeks all fled, the Trojans pouring on :  
But stands collected in himself and whole,  
And questions thus his own unconquer'd soul.

What farther subterfuge ? what hopes remain ?  
What shame inglorious if I quit the plain ?  
What danger, singly if I stand the ground,  
My friends all scatter'd, all the foes around ?  
Yet wherefore doubtful ? let this truth suffice ;  
The brave meets danger, and the coward flies :  
To die or conquer, proves a hero's heart ;  
And knowing this, I know a soldier's part.

Such thoughts revolving in his careful breast,  
Near, and more near, the shady cohorts prest ;  
These in the warrior their own fate inclose :  
And round him deep the steely circle grows.  
So fares a boar whom all the troop surrounds:  
Of shouting huntsmen, and of clam'rous hounds ;  
He grinds his iv'ry tusks ; he foams with ire ;  
His sanguine eye-balls glare with living fire ;  
By these, by those, on ev'ry part is ply'd ;  
And the red slaughter spreads on ev'ry side.  
Pierc'd thro' the shoulder, first Deiopis fell ;  
Next Ennomus and Thoön sunk to hell ;  
Chersidamas, beneath the navel thrust,  
Falls prone to earth, and grasps the bloody dust.

Charops, the son of Hippasus, was near ;  
Ulysses reach'd him with the fatal spear ;

But to his aid his brother Socus flies,  
Socus, the brave, the gen'rous, and the wife :  
Near as he drew, the warrior thus began :

O great Ulysses, much-enduring man !  
Not deeper skill'd in every martial sleight,  
Than worn to toils, and active in the fight !  
This day two brothers shall thy conquest grace,  
And end at once the great Hippiasian race,



Or thou beneath this lance must press the field.— 545  
 He said, and forceful pierc'd his spacious shield :  
 Thro' the strong brass the ringing jav'lin thrown,  
 Plough'd half his side, and bar'd it to the bone :  
 By Pallas care, the spear, tho' deep infix'd,  
 Stopp'd short of life, nor with his entrails mix'd. 550

The wound not mortal wise Ulysses knew,  
 Then furious thus, (but first some steps withdrew :)  
 Unhappy man ! whose death our hands shall grace !  
 Fate calls thee hence, and finish'd is thy race.  
 No longer check my conquests on the foe ; 555  
 But pierc'd by this, to endless darkness go,  
 And add one spectre to the realms below !

He spoke, while Socus seiz'd with sudden fright,  
 Trembling gave way, and turn'd his back to flight,  
 Between his shoulders pierc'd the following dart, 560  
 And held its passage thro' the panting heart.  
 Wide in his breast appear'd the grisly wound ;  
 He falls ; his armour rings against the ground.  
 Then thus Ulysses, gazing on the slain :  
 Fam'd son of Hippasus ! there press the plain ; 565  
 There ends thy narrow span assign'd by fate,  
 Heav'n owes Ulysses yet a longer date.

Ah wretch ! no father shall thy corpse compose,  
 Thy dying eyes no tender mother close,  
 But hungry birds shall tear those balls away, 570  
 And hov'ring vultures scream around their prey.  
 Me Greece shall honour, when I meet my doom,  
 With solemn fun'rals and a lasting tomb.

Then raging with intolerable smart,  
 He writhes his body, and extracts the dart. 575  
 The dart a tide of spouting gore pursu'd,  
 And gladden'd Troy with sight of hostile blood.  
 Now troops on troops the fainting chief invade,  
 Forc'd he recedes, and loudly calls for aid.  
 Thrice to its pitch his lofty voice he rears ; 580  
 The well-known voice thrice Menelaus hears :  
 Alarm'd, to Ajax Telamon he cry'd,  
 Who shares his labours, and defends his side.  
 O friend ! Ulysses' shouts invade my ear ;  
 Distress'd he seems, and no assistance near : 585

Strong



Strong as he is, yet, one oppos'd to all,  
Oppress'd by multitudes, the best may fall.  
Greece, robb'd of him, must bid her host despair,  
And feel a loss, not ages can repair.

Then, where the cry directs, his course he bends ; 590  
Great Ajax, like the God of war, attends.

The prudent chief in sore distress they found,  
With bands of furious Trojans compass'd round.  
As when some huntsman, with a flying spear,  
From the blind thicket wounds a stately deer ; 595

Down his cleft side while fresh the blood distills,  
He bounds aloft, and scuds from hills to hills :

Till life's warm vapour issuing thro' the wound,  
Wild mountain-wolves the fainting beast surround ;  
Just as their jaws his prostrate limbs invade, 600

The lion rushes thro' the woodland shade,  
The wolves, tho' hungry, scour dispers'd away ;

The lordly savage vindicates his prey :

Ulysses thus, unconquer'd by his pains,  
A single warrior, half an host sustains : 605

But soon as Ajax heaves his tow'r-like shield,  
The scatter'd clouds fly frighted o'er the field ;

Atrides' arm the sinking hero stays,

And sav'd from numbers, to his car conveys.

Victorious Ajax plies the routed crew : 610

And first Doryclus, Priam's son, he slew,

On strong Pandocus next inflicts a wound,

And lays Lyfander bleeding on the ground.

As when a torrent, swell'd with wintry rains,  
Pours from the mountains o'er the delug'd plains, 615

And pines and oaks from their foundations torn,

A country's ruins ! to the seas are borne :

Fierce Ajax thus o'erwhelms the yielding throng ;

Men, steeds, and chariots, roll in heaps along.

But Hector, from this scene of slaughter far, 620

Rag'd on the left, and rul'd the tide of war :

Loud groans proclaim his progress thro' the plain,

And deep Scamander swells with heaps of slain.

There Nestor and Idomeneus oppose

The warrior's fury, there the battle glows ; 625

There fierce on foot, or from the chariot's height,

His sword deforms the beauteous ranks of fight.

The



The spouse of Helen dealing darts around,  
 Had pierc'd Machaön with a distant wound :  
 In his right shoulder the broad shaft appear'd, 630  
 And trembling Greece for her physician fear'd.

To Nestor then Idomeneus begun :  
 Glory of Greece, old Neleus' valiant son !  
 Ascend thy chariot, haste with speed away,  
 And great Machaön to the ships convey. 635  
 A wise physician, skill'd our wounds to heal,  
 Is more than armies to the public weal.

Old Nestor mounts the seat : beside him rode  
 The wounded offspring of the healing God.  
 He lends the lash ; the steeds with sounding feet. 640  
 Shake the dry field, and thunder tow'rd the fleet.

But now Cebriones, from Hector's car,  
 Survey'd the various fortune of the war :  
 While here (he cried) the flying Greeks are slain ;  
 Trojans on Trojans yonder load the plain. 645  
 Before great Ajax see the mingled throng  
 Of men and chariots driv'n in heaps along !  
 I know him well, distinguish'd o'er the field,  
 By the broad glitt'ring of the sev'n-fold shield.  
 Thither, O Hector, thither urge thy steeds ; 650  
 There danger calls, and there the combat bleeds ;  
 There horse and foot in mingled deaths unite,  
 And groans of slaughter mix with shouts of fight.

Thus having spoke, the driver's lash resounds ;  
 Swift thro' the ranks the rapid chariot bounds ; 655  
 Stung by the stroke, the coursers scour the fields,  
 O'er heaps of carcases, and hills of shields.  
 The horses hoofs are bath'd in heroes gore,  
 And dashing, purple all the car before ;  
 The groaning axle sable drops distils, 660  
 And mangled carnage clogs the rapid wheels.  
 Here Hector plunging thro' the thickest fight,  
 Broke the dark phalanx and let in the light :  
 (By the long lance, the sword, or pond'rous stone,  
 The ranks lie scatter'd, and the troops o'erthrown). 665  
 Ajax he shuns thro' all the dire debate,  
 And fears that arm, whose force he felt so late.  
 But partial Jove, espousing Hector's part,  
 Shot heav'n-bred horror thro' the Grecian's heart ;

Confus'd,



Confus'd, unnerv'd, in Hector's presence grown, 670  
Amaz'd he stood, with terrors not his own.  
O'er his broad back his moony shield he threw,  
And glaring round, by tardy steps withdrew.  
Thus the grim lion his retreat maintains,  
Beset with watchful dogs, and shouting swains; 675  
Repuls'd by numbers from the nightly stalls,  
Tho' rage impels him, and tho' hunger calls,  
Long stands the show'ring darts, and missile fires;  
Then sourly slow th' indignant beast retires.  
So turn'd stern Ajax, by whole hosts repell'd, 680  
While his swoln heart at ev'ry step rebell'd.

As the slow beast with heavy strength endu'd,  
In some wide field by troops of boys pursu'd,  
Tho' round his sides a wooden tempest rain,  
Crops the tall harvest, and lays waste the plain; 685  
Thick on his hide the hollow blows resound,  
The patient animal maintains his ground,  
Scarce from the field with all their efforts chac'd,  
And stirs but slowly when he stirs at last.  
On Ajax thus a weight of Trojans hung, 690  
The strokes redoubled on his buckler rung;  
Confiding now in bulky strength he stands,  
Now turns, and backward bears the yielding bands;  
Now stiff recedes, yet hardly seems to fly,  
And threats his followers with retorted eye. 695  
Fix'd as the bar between two warring pow'rs,  
While hissing darts descend in iron show'rs:  
In his broad buckler many a weapon stood,  
Its surface bristled with a quiv'ring wood;  
And many a jav'lin, guiltless on the plain, 700  
Marks the dry dust, and thirsts for blood in vain.  
But bold Eurypylus his aid imparts,  
And dauntless springs beneath a cloud of darts;  
Whose eager jav'lin launch'd against the foe,  
Great Apisaon felt the fatal blow; 705  
From his torn liver the red current flow'd,  
And his slack knees desert their dying load.  
The victor rushing to despoil the dead,  
From Paris' bow a vengeful arrow fled:  
Fix'd in his nervous thigh the weapon stood, 710  
Fix'd was the point, but broken was the wood.



Back to the lines the wounded Greek retir'd,  
Yet thus, retreating, his associates fir'd :

What God, O Grecians ! has your hearts dismay'd !  
Oh, turn to arms ; 'tis Ajax claims your aid. 715  
This hour he stands the mark of hostile rage,  
And this the last brave battle he shall wage ;  
Haste, join your forces ; from the gloomy grave  
The warrior rescue, and your country save.

Thus urg'd the chief ; a gen'rous troop appears, 720  
Who spread their bucklers, and advance their spears  
To guard their wounded friend : while thus they stand  
With pious care, great Ajax joins the band :  
Each takes new courage at the hero's sight ;  
The hero rallies and renews the fight. 725

Thus rag'd both armies like conflicting fires,  
While Nestor's chariot far from fight retires :  
His courfers steep'd in sweat, and stain'd with gore,  
The Greeks preserver, great Machaon, bore.  
That hour, Achilles, from the topmost height 730  
Of his proud fleet, o'erlook'd the fields of fight ;  
His fasted eyes beheld around the plain  
The Grecian rout, the slaying, and the slain.  
His friend Machaon singled from the rest,  
A transient pity touch'd his vengeful breast. 735  
Straight to Menœtius' much lov'd son he sent ;  
Graceful as Mars, Patroclus quits his tent ;  
(In evil hour ! then fate decreed his doom ;  
And fix'd the date of all his woes to come !)

Why calls my friend ! thy lov'd injunctions lay,  
Whate'er thy will, Patroclus shall obey. 741

O first of friends ! (Pelides thus reply'd),  
Still at my heart, and ever at my side !  
The time is come, when yon despairing host  
Shall learn the value of the man they lost : 745  
Now at my knees the Greeks shall pour their moan,  
And proud Atrides tremble on his throne.  
Go now to Nestor, and from him be taught  
What wounded warrior late his chariot brought ?  
For seen at distance, and but seen behind, 750  
His form recall'd Machaon to my mind ;  
Nor could I, thro' yon cloud, discern his face,  
The courfers pass'd me with so swift a pace.

The



The hero said. His friend obey'd with haste,  
 Thro' intermingled ships and tents he pass'd, 755  
 The chiefs descending from their car he found ;  
 The panting steeds Eurymedon unbound.  
 The warriors standing on the breezy shore,  
 To dry their sweat, and wash away the gore,  
 Here paus'd a moment, while the gentle gale 760  
 Convey'd that freshness the cool seas exhale ;  
 Then to consult on farther methods went,  
 And took their seats beneath the shady tent.  
 The draught prescrib'd, fair Hecamede prepares,  
 Arsinous' daughter, grac'd with golden hairs : 765  
 (Whom to his aged arms, a royal slave,  
 Greece, as the prize of Nestor's wisdom, gave).  
 A table first with azure feet she plac'd ;  
 Whose ample orb a brazen charger grac'd :  
 Honey new-press'd, the sacred flour of wheat, 770  
 And wholesome garlic crown'd the sav'ry treat.  
 Next her white hand an antique goblet brings,  
 A goblet sacred to the Pylian kings  
 From eldest times ; emboss'd with studs of gold,  
 Two feet support it, and four handles hold ; 775  
 On each bright handle, bending o'er the brink,  
 In sculptur'd gold, two turtles seem to drink :  
 A massy weight, yet heav'd with ease by him,  
 When the brisk nectar overlook'd the brim.  
 Temper'd in this, the nymph of form divine 780  
 Pours a large potion of the Pramnian wine ;  
 With goat's milk cheese a flav'rous taste bestows,  
 And last with flour the smiling surface strows.  
 This for the wounded prince the dame prepares ;  
 The cordial bev'rage rev'rend Nestor shares ; 785  
 Salubrious draughts the warriors thirst allay,  
 And pleasing conference beguiles the day. —  
 Mean-time Patroclus, by Achilles sent,  
 Unhear'd, approach'd, and stood before the tent.  
 Old Nestor rising then, the hero led 790  
 To his high seat ; the chief refus'd, and said,  
 'Tis now no season for these kind delays ;  
 The great Achilles with impatience stays.  
 To great Achilles this respect I owe ;  
 Who asks what hero, wounded by the foe, 795



Was borne from combat by thy foaming steeds ?  
 With grief I see the great Machaon bleeds.  
 This to report, my hasty course I bend ;  
 Thou know'st the fiery temper of my friend.

Can then the sons of Greece (the sage rejoin'd) 800  
 Excite compassion in Achilles' mind ?

Seeks he the sorrows of our host to know ?

This is not half the story of our woe.

Tell him, not great Machaon bleeds alone,

Our bravest heroes in the navy groan,

805

Ulysses, Agamemnon, Dioned,

And stern Eurypylus, already bleed.

But ah ! what flatt'ring hopes I entertain ?

Achilles heeds not, but derides our pain :

Ev'n till the flames consume our fleet he stays,

810

And waits the rising of the fatal blaze.

Chief after chief the raging foe destroys ;

Calm he looks on, and ev'ry death enjoys.

Now the slow course of all-impairing time

Unstrings my nerves, and ends my manly prime ; 815

Oh ! had I still that strength my youth possess'd,

When this bold arm th' Æpeian pow'rs oppress'd,

The bulls of Elis in glad triumph led,

And stretch'd the great Itymonæus dead !

Then, from my fury fled the trembling swains,

820

And ours was all the plunder of the plains :

Fifty white flocks, full fifty herds of swine,

As many goats, as many lowing kine ;

And thrice the number of unrivall'd steeds,

All teeming females, and of gen'rous breeds,

825

These, as my first essay of arms, I won ;

Old Neleus glory'd in his conqu'ring son.

Thus Elis forc'd, her long arrears restor'd,

And shares were parted to each Pylian lord.

The state of Pyle was sunk to last despair,

830

When the proud Elians first commenc'd the war.

For Neleus' sons Alcides' rage had slain ;

Of twelve bold brothers, I alone remain !

Oppress'd, we arm'd ; and now this conquest gain'd,

My sire three hundred chosen sheep obtain'd.

835

(That large reprisal he might justly claim,

For prize defrauded, and insulted fame,

When



When Elis' monarch at the public course  
 Detain'd his chariot, and victorious horse.)  
 The rest the people shar'd ; myself survey'd 840  
 The just partition, and due victims pay'd.  
 Three days were past, when Elis rose to war,  
 With many a courser, and with many a car ;  
 The sons of Actor at their army's head  
 (Young as they were) the vengeful squadrons led. 845  
 High on a rock fair Thryoëssa stands,  
 Our utmost frontier on the Pylian lands ;  
 Not far the streams of fam'd Alphæus flow ;  
 The stream they pass'd and pitch'd their tents below.  
 Pallas descending in the shades of night, 850  
 Alarms the Pylians, and commands the fight.  
 Each burns for fame, and swells with martial pride ;  
 Myself the foremost ; but my fire deny'd ;  
 Fear'd for my youth, expos'd to stern alarms ;  
 And stopp'd my chariot, and detain'd my arms. 855  
 My fire deny'd in vain : on foot I fled  
 Amidst our chariots : for the Goddess led.  
 Along fair Arene's delightful plain,  
 Soft Minyas rolls his waters to the main.  
 There, horse and foot, the Pylian troops unite, 860  
 And sheath'd in arms expect the dawning light.  
 Thence, ere the sun advanc'd his noon-day flame,  
 To great Alphæus' sacred source we came.  
 There first to Jove our solemn rites were paid ;  
 An untam'd heifer pleas'd the blue ey'd maid, 865  
 A bull Alphæus ; and a bull was slain  
 To the blue monarch of the wat'ry main.  
 In arms we slept, beside the winding flood,  
 While round the town the fierce Epeians stood.  
 Soon as the sun, with all revealing ray, 870  
 Flam'd in the front of heav'n, and gave the day ;  
 Bright scenes of arms, and works of war appear ;  
 The nations meet ; there Pylos, Elis here.  
 The first who fell, beneath my jav'lin bled ;  
 King Augias' son, and spouse of Agamede : 875  
 (She that all simples' healing virtues knew,  
 And ev'ry herb that drinks the morning dew.)  
 I seiz'd his car, the van of battle led ;  
 Th' Epeians saw, they trembled, and they fled.



The foe dispers'd, their bravest warrior kill'd, 880  
Fierce as a whirlwind now I swept the field :

Full fifty captive chariots grac'd my train ;  
Two chiefs from each, fell breathless to the plain.  
Then Actor's sons had dy'd, but Neptune shrouds  
The youthful heroes in a veil of clouds. 885

O'er heapy shields, and o'er the prostrate throng,  
Collecting spoils, and slaught'ring all along.

Thro' wide Buprasian fields we forc'd the foes,  
Where o'er the vales th' Olenian rocks arose ;  
Till Pallas stopp'd us where Alisium flows. 890

Ev'n there, the hindmost of their rear I slay,  
And the same arm that led, concludes the day ;

Then back to Pyle triumphant take my way  
There to high Jove were public thanks assign'd,  
As first of Gods ; to Nestor, of mankind. 895

Such then I was, impell'd by youthful blood ;  
So prov'd my valour for my country's good.

Achilles with unactive fury glows,  
And gives to passion what to Greece he owes.

How shall he grieve, when to th' eternal shade 900  
Her hosts shall sink, nor his the pow'r to aid !

O friend ! my memory recalls the day,

When gath'ring aids along the Grecian sea,

I, and Ulysses, touch'd at Pthia's port,

And enter'd Peleus' hospitable court. 905

A bull to Jove he slew in sacrifice,

And pour'd libations on the flaming thighs.

Thyself, Achilles, and thy rev'rend sire

Menoetius, turn'd the fragments on the fire.

Achilles sees us, to the feast invites ; 910

Social we sit, and share the genial rites.

We then explain'd the cause on which we came,

Urg'd you to arms, and found you fierce for fame.

Your ancient fathers gen'rous precepts gave ;

Peleus said only this—" My son ! be brave." 915

Menoetius thus : " Tho' great Achilles shine

" In strength superior, and of race divine ;

" Yet cooler thoughts thy elder years attend ;

" Let thy just counsels aid, and rule thy friend."

Thus spoke your father at Theffalia's court ; 920

Words now forgot, tho' now of vast import.

Ah !



Ah ! try the utmost that a friend can say,  
 Such gentle force the fiercest minds obey ;  
 Some fav'ring God Achilles' heart may move ;  
 Tho' deaf to glory, he may yield to love. 925

If some dire oracle his breast alarm,  
 If ought from heav'n with-hold his saving arm ;  
 Some beam of comfort yet on Greece may shine,  
 If thou but lead the Mirmidonian line ;  
 Clad in Achilles' arms, if thou appear, 930  
 Proud Troy may tremble, and desist from war ;  
 Press'd by fresh forces, her o'er-labour'd train  
 Shall seek their walls, and Greece respire again.

This touch'd his gen'rous heart, and from the tent  
 Along the shore with hasty strides he went ; 935  
 Soon as he came, where, on the crouded strand,  
 The public mart and courts of justice stand,  
 Where the tall fleet of great Ulysses lies,  
 And altars to the guardian Gods arise ;  
 There sad he met the brave Evæmon's son, 940  
 Large painful drops from all his members run ;  
 An arrow's head yet rooted in his wound,  
 The sable blood in circles mark'd the ground,  
 As faintly reeling he confess'd the smart ;  
 Weak was his pace, but dauntless was his heart. 945  
 Divine compassion touch'd Patroclus' breast,  
 Who, sighing, thus his bleeding friend address'd.

Ah hapless leaders of the Grecian host !  
 Thus must ye perish on a barb'rous coast ?  
 Is this your fate, to glut the dogs with gore, 950  
 Far from your friends, and from your native shore ?  
 Say, great Eurypylus ! shall Greece yet stand ?  
 Resists she yet the raging Hector's hand ?  
 Or are her heroes doom'd to die with shame,  
 And this the period of our wars and fame ? 955

Eurypylus replies : No more, (my friend),  
 Greece is no more, this day her glories end.  
 Ev'n to the ships victorious Troy pursues,  
 Her force increasing as her toil renews.  
 Those chiefs, that us'd her utmost rage to meet, 960  
 Lie pierc'd with wounds, and bleeding in the fleet.  
 But thou, Patroclus ! act a friendly part,  
 Lead to my ships, and draw this deadly dart ;



With lukewarm water wash the gore away,  
 With healing balms the raging smart allay, 965  
 Such as sage Chiron, fire of pharmacy,  
 Once taught Achilles, and Achilles thee.  
 Of two fam'd surgeons, Podalirius stands  
 This hour surrounded by the Trojan bands;  
 And great Machaon, wounded in his tent, 970  
 Now wants that succour which so oft he lent.  
 To him the chief : What then remains to do !  
 Th' event of things the Gods alone can view.  
 Charg'd by Achilles' great command I fly,  
 And bear with haste the Pylian king's reply : 975  
 But thy distress this instant claims relief,  
 He said, and in his arms upheld the chief.  
 The slaves their master's flow approach survey'd,  
 And hides of oxen on the floor display'd :  
 There stretch'd at length the wounded hero lay, 980  
 Patroclus cut the forky steel away :  
 Then in his hands a bitter root he bruis'd ;  
 The wound he wash'd, the styptic juice infus'd.  
 The closing flesh that instant ceas'd to glow,  
 The wound to torture, and the blood to flow. 985

THE



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K XII.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The battle at the Grecian wall.

*The Greeks being retired into their entrenchments, Hector attempts to force them; but it proving impossible to pass the ditch, Polydamas advises to quit their chariots, and manage the attack on foot. The Trojans follow his counsel, and having divided their army into five bodies of foot, begin the assault. But upon the signal of an eagle with a serpent in his talons, which appeared on the left hand of the Trojans, Polydamas endeavours to withdraw them again. This Hector opposes, and continues the attack; in which, after many actions, Sarpedon makes the first breach in the wall: Hector also casting a stone of a vast size, forces open one of the gates, and enters at the head of his troops, who victoriously pursue the Grecians even to their ships.*

While thus the hero's pious cares attend,  
 The cure and safety of his wounded friend,  
 Trojans and Greeks with clashing shields engage,  
 And mutual deaths are dealt with mutual rage.  
 Nor long the trench or lofty walls oppose; 5  
 With Gods averse, th' ill-fated works arose;  
 Their pow'rs neglected, and no victim slain,  
 The walls were raz'd, the trenches sunk in vain.  
 Without the Gods, how short a period stands  
 The proudest monument of mortal hands! 10  
 This stood, while Hector and Achilles rag'd;  
 While sacred Troy the warring hosts engag'd;  
 But when her sons were slain, her city burn'd,  
 And what surviv'd of Greece to Greece return'd;  
 Then



Then Neptune and Apollo shook the shore, 15  
 Then Ida's summits pour'd their wat'ry store;  
 Rhesus and Rhodius then unite their rills,  
 Carefus roaring down the stony hills,  
 Æfopus, Granicus, with mingled force;  
 And Xanthus foaming from his fruitful source; 20  
 And gulphy Simois, rolling to the main;  
 Helmets, and shields, and godlike heroes slain:  
 These turn'd by Phœbus from their wonted ways,  
 Delug'd the rampire nine continual days;  
 The weight of water saps the yielding wall, 25  
 And to the sea the floating bulwarks fall.  
 Incessant cataracts the Thund'rer pours,  
 And half the skies descend in fluicy show'rs,  
 The God of ocean, marching stern before,  
 With his huge trident wounds the trembling shore, 30  
 Vast stones and piles from their foundation heaves,  
 And whelms the smoky ruin in the waves.  
 Now smooth'd with sand, and levell'd by the flood,  
 No fragment tells where once the wonder stood;  
 In their old bounds the rivers roll again, 35  
 Shine 'twixt the hills, or wander o'er the plain.

But this the Gods in later times perform;  
 As yet the bulwark stood, and brav'd the storm;  
 The strokes yet echo'd of contending pow'rs;  
 War thunder'd at the gates, and blood distain'd the tow'rs.  
 Smote by the arm of Jove, and dire dismay, 41  
 Close by their hollow ships the Grecians lay:  
 Hector's approach in every wind they hear,  
 And Hector's fury ev'ry moment fear.  
 He, like a whirlwind, tofs'd the scatt'ring throng, 45  
 Mingled the troops, and drove the field along.  
 So 'midst the dogs and hunter's daring bands,  
 Fierce of his might, a boar or lion stands;  
 Arm'd foes around a dreadful circle form,  
 And hissing jav'lines rain an iron storm: 50  
 His pow'rs untam'd their bold assault defy,  
 And where he turns, the rout disperse, or die:  
 He foams, he glares, he bounds against them all,  
 And if he falls, his courage makes him fall.  
 With equal rage encompass'd Hector glows; 55  
 Exhorts his armies, and the trenches shows.

The



The panting steeds impatient fury breathe,  
But snort and tremble at the gulf beneath;  
Just on the brink they neigh, and paw the ground,  
And the turf trembles, and the skies resound. 60

Eager they view'd the prospect dark and deep,  
Vast was the leap, and headlong hung the steep;  
The bottom bare, a (formidable show!)  
And bristled thick with sharpen'd stakes below.  
The foot alone this strong defence could force, 65  
And try the pass impervious to the horse.

This saw Polydamas; who, wisely brave,  
Restrain'd great Hector, and this counsel gave:

O thou! bold leader of our Trojan bands,  
And you, confed'rate chiefs from foreign lands! 70

What entrance here can cumb'rous chariots find,  
The stakes beneath, the Grecian walls behind?

No pass thro' those, without a thousand wounds,  
No space for combat in yon narrow bounds.

Proud of the favours mighty Jove has shown, 75  
On certain dangers we too rashly run:

If 'tis his will our haughty foes to tame,

Oh may this instant end the Grecian name!

Here, far from Argos, let their heroes fall,

And one great day destroy and bury all! 80

But should they turn, and here oppress our train,

What hopes, what methods of retreat remain?

—Wedg'd in the trench, by our own troops confus'd,

In one promiscuous carnage crush'd and bruis'd;

All Troy must perish, if their arms prevail, 85

Nor shall a Trojan live to tell the tale.

Hear then ye warriors! and obey with speed;

Back from the trenches let your steeds be led;

Then all alighting, wedg'd in firm array,

Proceed on foot, and Hector lead the way. 90

So Greece shall stoop before our conqu'ring pow'r,

And this (if Jove consent) her fatal hour.

This counsel pleas'd: the godlike Hector sprung

Swift from his seat; his clanging armour rung.

The chief's example follow'd by his train, 95

Each quits his car, and issues on the plain.

By orders strict the charioteers enjoin'd,

Compel the couriers to their ranks behind.

The



The forces part in five distinguish'd bands,  
And all obey their sev'ral chief's commands. 100

The best and bravest in the first conspire,  
Pant for the fight, and threat the fleet with fire :  
Great Hector, glorious in the van of these,  
Polydamas, and brave Cebriones.

Before the next the graceful Paris shines, 105  
And bold Alcathous, and Agenor joins.

The sons of Priam with the third appear,  
Deiphobus, and Helenus the seer ;

In arms with these the mighty Asius stood,  
Who drew from Hyrtacus his noble blood, 110

And whom Arisba's yellow coursers bore,  
The coursers fed on Selle's winding shore.

Antenor's sons the fourth battalion guide,  
And great Æneas, born on fount-ful Ide.

Divine Sarpedon the last band obey'd, 115  
Whom Glaucus and Afteropæus aid,

Next him, the bravest at their army's head,  
But he more brave than all the hosts he led.

Now with compacted shields in close array,  
The moving legions speed their headlong way : 120

Already in their hopes they fire the fleet,  
And see the Grecians gasping at their feet.

While ev'ry Trojan thus, and ev'ry aid,  
Th' advice of wise Polydamas obey'd ;

Asius alone confiding in his car, 125  
His vaunted coursers urg'd to meet the war.

Unhappy hero ! and advis'd in vain !

Those wheels returning ne'er shall mark the plain ;

No more those coursers with triumphant joy

Restore their master to the gates of Troy ! 130

Black death attends behind the Grecian wall,

And great Idomeneus shall boast thy fall !

Fierce to the left he drives, where from the plain,

The flying Grecians strove their ships to gain ;

Swift thro' the wall their horse and chariots past, 135

The gates half-open'd to receive the last.

Thither, exulting in his force, he flies ;

His following host with clamours rend the skies ;

To plunge the Grecians headlong in the main,

Such their proud hopes, but all their hopes were vain !

To



To guard the gates, two mighty chiefs attend, 141  
 Who from the Lapiths warlike race descend;  
 This Polypætes, great Perithous' heir,  
 And that Leonteus, like the God of war.  
 As two tall oaks, before the wall they rise; 145  
 Their roots in earth, their heads amidst the skies:  
 Whose spreading arms with leafy honours crown'd,  
 Forbid the tempest, and protect the ground;  
 High on the hills appears their stately form,  
 And their deep roots for ever brave the storm. 150  
 So graceful these, and so the shock they stand  
 Of raging Asius, and his furious band.  
 Orestes, Acamas in front appear,  
 And Oenomaus and Thoön close the rear,  
 In vain their clamours shake the ambient fields, 155  
 In vain around them beat their hollow shields;  
 The fearless brothers on the Grecians call,  
 To guard their navies, and defend the wall.  
 Ev'n when they saw Troy's sable troops impend,  
 And Greece tumultuous from her tow'rs descend, 160  
 Forth from the portals rush'd the intrepid pair,  
 Oppos'd their breasts, and stood themselves the war.  
 So two wild boars spring furious from their den,  
 Rous'd with the cries of dogs and voice of men;  
 On ev'ry side the crackling trees they tear, 165  
 And root the shrubs, and lay the forest bare;  
 They gnash their tusks, with fire their eye-balls roll,  
 Till some wide wounds lets out their mighty soul.  
 Around their heads the whistling jav'lines sung,  
 With sounding strokes their brazen targets rung; 170  
 Fierce was the fight, while yet the Grecian pow'rs  
 Maintain'd the walls, and mann'd the lofty tow'rs:  
 To save their fleet the last efforts they try,  
 And stones and darts in mingled tempests fly.

As when sharp Boreas blows abroad, and brings 175  
 The dreary winter on his frozen wings;  
 Beneath the low-hung clouds the sheets of snow  
 Descend, and whiten all the fields below:  
 So fast the darts on either army pour,  
 So down the rampires roll the rocky show'r: 180  
 Heavy, and thick, resound the batter'd shields,  
 And the deaf echo rattles round the fields.

With



With shame repuls'd, with grief and fury driv'n,  
 The frantic Asius thus accuses heav'n:  
 In pow'rs immortal who shall now believe! 185  
 Can those too flatter, and can Jove deceive?  
 What man could doubt but Troy's victorious pow'r  
 Should humble Greece, and this her fatal hour?  
 But like when wasps from hollow crannies drive,  
 To guard the entrance of their common hive, 190  
 Dark'ning the rock, while with unweary'd wings,  
 They strike th' assailants, and infix their stings;  
 A race determin'd, that to death contend:  
 So fierce these Greeks their last retreats defend:  
 Gods! shall two warriors only guard their gates, 195  
 Repel an army, and defraud the fates?

These empty accents mingled with the wind,  
 Nor mov'd great Jove's unalterable mind;  
 To godlike Hector and his matchless might  
 Was ow'd the glory of the destin'd fight. 200  
 Like deeds of arms thro' all the forts were try'd,  
 And all the gates sustain'd an equal tide;  
 Thro' the long walls the stony show'rs were heard,  
 The blaze of flames, the flash of arms appear'd,  
 The spirit of a God my breast inspire, 205  
 To raise each act to life, and sing with fire!  
 While Greece unconquer'd kept alive the war,  
 Secure of death, confiding in despair;  
 And all her guardian Gods, in deep dismay,  
 With unassisting arms deplor'd the day. 210

Ev'n yet the dauntless Lapithæ maintain  
 The dreadful pass, and round them heap the slain.  
 First Damasus, by Polypoetes' steel,  
 Pierc'd thro' his helmet's brazen vizor, fell;  
 The weapon drank the mingled brains and gore! 215  
 The warrior sinks, tremendous now no more:  
 Next Ormenus and Pylon yield their breath,  
 Nor less Leonteus strows the field with death;  
 First thro' the belt Hippomachus he gor'd,  
 Then sudden wav'd his unresisted sword; 220  
 Antiphates, as thro' the ranks he broke,  
 The faulchion struck, and fate pursu'd the stroke;  
 Iamenus, Orestes, Menon, bled;  
 And round him rose a monument of dead.



Mean-time, the bravest of the Trojan crew, 225  
Bold Hector and Polydamas, pursue ;  
Fierce with impatience on the works to fall,  
And wrap in rolling flames the fleet and wall.  
These on the farther bank now stood and gaz'd,  
By heav'n alarm'd, by prodigies amaz'd : 230  
A signal omen stopp'd the passing host,  
Their martial fury in their wonder lost,  
Jove's bird on sounding pinions beat the skies ;  
A bleeding serpent of enormous size,  
His talons truss'd ; alive, and curling round, 235  
He stung the bird, whose throat receiv'd th' wound :  
Mad with the smart, he drops the fatal prey,  
In airy circles wings his painful way,  
Floats on the winds, and rends the heav'ns with cries :  
Amidst the host the fallen serpent lies. 240  
They, pale with terror, mark its spires unroll'd,  
And Jove's portent with beating hearts behold.  
Then first Polydamas the silence broke,  
Long weigh'd the signal, and to Hector spoke.  
How oft, my brother, thy reproach I bear, 245  
For words well meant, and sentiments sincere ?  
True to those counsels which I judge the best,  
I tell the faithful dictates of my breast.  
To speak his thoughts is ev'ry freeman's right,  
In peace and war, in council and in fight ; 250  
And all I move, deferring to thy sway,  
But tends to raise that pow'r which I obey.  
Then hear my words, nor may my words be vain ;  
Seek not, this day, the Grecian ships to gain ;  
For sure to warn us Jove his omen sent, 255  
And thus my mind explains its clear event.  
The victor eagle, whose sinister flight  
Retards our host, and fills our hearts with fright,  
Dismiss'd his conquest in the middle skies,  
Allow'd to seize, but not possess the prize ; 260  
Thus tho' we gird with fires the Grecian fleet,  
Tho' these proud bulwarks tumble at our feet,  
Toils unforeseen, and fiercer, are decreed ;  
More woes shall follow, and more heroes bleed.  
So bodes my soul, and bids me thus advise ; 265  
For thus a skilful seer would read the skies,



To him then Hector with disdain return'd;  
 (Fierce as he spoke, his eyes with fury burn'd):  
 Are these the faithful counsels of thy tongue?  
 Thy will is partial, not thy reason wrong: 270

Or if the purpose of thy heart thou vent,  
 Sure heav'n resumes the little sense it lent.  
 What coward counsels would thy madness move,  
 Against the word, the will reveal'd of Jove?  
 The leading sign, th' irrevocable nod, 275

And happy thunders of the fav'ring God,  
 These shall I slight? and guide my wav'ring mind  
 By wand'ring birds, that flit with ev'ry wind?  
 Ye vagrants of the sky? your wings extend,  
 Or where the suns arise, or where descend: 280

To right, to left, unheeded take your way,  
 While I the dictates of high heav'n obey.  
 Without a sign his sword the brave man draws,  
 And asks no omen but his country's cause:  
 But why shouldst thou suspect the war's success? 285  
 None fears it more, as none promotes it less: —

Tho' all our chiefs amid yon ships expire,  
 Trust thy own cowardice t' escape their fire.  
 Troy and her sons may find a gen'ral grave,  
 But thou canst live, for thou canst be a slave. 290

Yet should the fears that wary mind suggests  
 Spread their cold poison thro' our soldier's breasts,  
 My jav'lin can revenge so base a part,  
 And free the soul that quivers in thy heart.

Furious he spoke, and rushing to the wall, 295  
 Calls on his host; his host obey the call;  
 With ardour follow where their leader flies:  
 Redoubling clamours thunder in the skies.

Jove breathes a whirlwind from the hills of Ide,  
 And drifts of dust the clouded navy hide: 300

He fills the Greeks with terror and dismay,  
 And gives great Hector the predestin'd day.  
 Strong in themselves, but stronger in their aid,  
 Close to their works their rigid siege they laid,  
 In vain the mounds and massy beams defend, 305

While these they undermine, and those they rend;  
 Upheave the piles that prop the solid wall;  
 And heaps on heaps the smoky ruins fall;

Greece



Greece on her rampart stands the fierce alarms ;  
The crouded bulwarks blaze with waving arms, 310  
Shield touching shield, a long refulgent row ;  
Whence hissing darts, incessant, rain below.

The bold Ajaces fly from tow'r to tow'r,  
And rouse, with flame divine, the Grecian pow'r.  
The gen'rous impulse ev'ry Greek obeys ; 315  
Threats urge the fearful ; and the valiant, praise.

Fellows in arms ! whose deeds are known to fame,  
And you whose ardour hopes an equal name !  
Since not alike endu'd with force or art,  
Behold a day when each may act his part ! 320

A day to fire the brave, and warm the cold,  
To gain new glories, or augment the old.  
Urge those who stand ; and those who faint, excite ;  
Drown Hector's vaunts in loud exhortations of fight ;  
Conquest, not safety, fill the thoughts of all ; 325  
Seek not your fleet, but sally from the wall ;  
So Jove once more may drive their routed train,  
And Troy lie trembling in her walls again.

Their ardour kindles all the Grecian pow'rs ;  
And now the stones descend in heavier show'rs. 330

As when high Jove his sharp artillery forms,  
And opes his cloudy magazine of storms ;  
In winter's bleak, uncomfortable reign,  
A snowy inundation hides the plain ;  
He stills the winds, and bids the skies to sleep ; 335  
Then pours the silent tempest, thick and deep :

And first the mountain-tops are cover'd o'er,  
Then the green fields, and then the sandy shore :  
Bent with the weight the nodding woods are seen,  
And one bright waste hides all the works of men : 340

The circling seas alone absorbing all,  
Drink the dissolving fleeces as they fall :  
So from each side increas'd the stony rain,  
And the white ruin rises o'er the plain.

Thus godlike Hector and his troops contend 345  
To force the ramparts, and the gates to rend ;  
Nor Troy could conquer, nor the Greeks would yield,  
Till great Sarpedon tow'r'd amid the field ;  
For mighty Jove inspir'd with martial flame  
His matchless son, and urg'd him on to fame. 350



In arms he shines, conspicuous from afar,  
 And bears aloft his ample shield in air;  
 Within whose orb the thick bull-hides were roll'd,  
 Pond'rous with brass, and bound with ductile gold:  
 And while two pointed jav'lines arm his hands, 355  
 Majestic moves along, and leads his Lycian bands.

So press'd with hunger, from the mountain's brow  
 Descends a lion on the flocks below;  
 So stalks the lordly savage o'er the plain,  
 In fallen Majesty, and stern disdain: 360  
 In vain loud mastives bay him from afar,  
 And shepherds gall him with an iron war;  
 Regardless, furious, he pursues his way;  
 He foams, he roars, he rends the panting prey.

Resolv'd alike, divine Sarpedon glows 365  
 With gen'rous rage that drives him on the foes.  
 He views the tow'rs, and meditates their fall,  
 To sure destruction dooms th' aspiring wall;  
 Then casting on his friend an ardent look,  
 Fir'd with the thirst of glory, thus he spoke: 370

Why boast we, Glaucus! our extended reign,  
 Where Xanthus' streams enrich the Lycian plain,  
 Our num'rous herds that range the fruitful field,  
 And hills where vines their purple harvest yield,  
 Our foaming bowls with purer nectar crown'd, 375  
 Our feasts enhanc'd with music's sprightly sound?  
 Why on those shores are we with joy survey'd,  
 Admir'd as heroes, and as Gods obey'd!  
 Unless great acts superior merit prove,  
 And vindicate the bounteous pow'rs above. 380

'Tis ours, the dignity they give, to grace;  
 The first in valour, as the first in place:  
 That when with wond'ring eyes our martial bands  
 Behold our deeds transcending our commands,  
 Such, they may cry, deserve the sov'reign state, 385  
 Whom those that envy, dare not imitate!  
 Could all our care elude the gloomy grave,  
 Which claims no less the fearful than the brave,  
 For lust of fame I should not vainly dare  
 In fighting fields, nor urge thy soul to war. 390  
 But since, alas! ignoble age must come,  
 Disease, and death's inexorable doom;

The



The life which others pay, let us bestow,  
 And give to fame what we to nature owe;  
 Brave tho' we fall, and honoured if we live, 395  
 Or let us glory gain, or glory give!

He said; his words the list'ning chief inspire  
 With equal warmth, and rouse the warrior's fire;  
 The troops pursue their leaders with delight,  
 Rush to the foe, and claim the promis'd fight. 400

Menestheus from on high the storm beheld,  
 Threat'ning the fort, and black'ning in the field;  
 Around the walls he gaz'd, to view from far  
 What aid appear'd t' avert th' approaching war,  
 And saw where Teucer with th' Ajaces stood, 405  
 Of fight infatiate, prodigal of blood.

In vain he calls; the din of helms and shields  
 Rings to the skies, and echoes thro' the fields,  
 The brazen hinges fly, the walls resound, [ground.  
 Heav'n trembles, roar the mountains, thunders all the

Then thus to Thoös;—Hence with speed, (he said),  
 And urge the bold Ajaces to our aid; 412  
 Their strength, united, best may help to bear  
 The bloody labours of the doubtful war:  
 Hither the Lycian princes bend their course, 415  
 The best and bravest of the hostile force;  
 But if too fiercely there the foes contend,  
 Let Telamon, at least our tow'rs defend,  
 And Teucer haste with his unerring bow,  
 To share the danger, and repel the foe. 420

Swift at the word, the herald speeds along  
 The lofty ramparts, thro' the martial throng;  
 And finds the heroes bath'd in sweat and gore,  
 Oppos'd in combat on the dusty shore.  
 Ye valiant leaders of our warlike bands! 425  
 Your aid (said Thoös) Peteus son demands,  
 Your strength, united, best may help to bear  
 The bloody labours of the doubtful war:  
 Thither the Lycian princes bend their course,  
 The best and bravest of the hostile force. 430  
 But if too fiercely, here the foes contend,  
 At least, let Telamon those tow'rs defend,  
 And Teucer haste with his unerring bow,  
 To share the danger, and repel the foe.



Straight to the fort great Ajax turn'd his care, 435  
And thus bespoke the brothers of the war :  
Now valiant Lycomedes ! exert your might,  
And brave Oileus, prove your force in fight :  
To you I trust the fortune of the field,  
Till by this arm the foe shall be repell'd ; 440  
That done, expect me to complete the day —  
Then, with his sevenfold shield, he strode away,  
With equal steps bold Teucer press'd the shore,  
Whose fatal bow the strong Pandion bore.

High on the walls appear'd the Lycian powers, 445  
Like some black tempest gath'ring round the towers ;  
The Greeks oppress'd, their utmost force unite,  
Prepar'd to labour in th' unequal fight ;  
The war renews, mix'd shouts and groans arise ;  
Tumultuous clamour mounts, and thickens in the skies.  
Fierce Ajax first th' advancing host invades, 450  
And sends the brave Epicles to the shades,  
Sarpedon's friend ; across the warrior's way,  
Rent from the walls a rocky fragment lay ;  
In modern ages not the strongest swain 445  
Could heave th' unwieldy burthen from the plain.  
He pois'd, and swung it round ; then toss'd on high  
It flew with force, and labour'd up the sky ;  
Full on the Lycian's helmet thund'ring down,  
The ponderous ruin crush'd his batter'd crown. 460  
As skilful divers from some airy steep,  
Headlong descend, and shoot into the deep,  
So falls Epicles ; then in groans expires,  
And murm'ring to the shades the soul retires.

While to the ramparts daring Glaucus drew, 465  
From Teucer's hand a winged arrow flew ;  
The bearded shaft the destin'd passage found,  
And on his naked arm inflicts a wound.  
The chief, who fear'd some foe's insulting boast  
Might stop the progress of his warlike host, 470  
Conceal'd the wound, and leaping from his height,  
Retir'd reluctant from th' unfinish'd fight.  
Divine Sarpedon with regret beheld  
Disabled Glaucus slowly quit the field ;  
His beating breast with gen'rous ardour glows, 475  
He springs to fight, and flies upon the foes,

Alcmæon



Alcmæon first was doom'd his force to feel ;  
Deep in his breast he plung'd the pointed steel ;  
Then, from the yawning wound with fury tore  
The spear, pursu'd by gushing streams of gore ; 480  
Down sinks the warrior with a thund'ring sound,  
His brazen armour rings against the ground.

Swift to the battlement the victor flies,  
Tugs with full force, and ev'ry nerve applies ;  
It shakes ; the pond'rous stones disjointed yield ; 485  
The rolling ruins smoke along the field.

A mighty breach appears ; the walls lie bare ;  
And, like a deluge, rushes in the war ;  
At once bold Teucer draws the twanging bow,  
And Ajax sends his jav'lin at the foe ; 490

Fix'd in his belt the feather'd weapon stood,  
And thro' his buckler drove the trembling wood ;  
But Jove was present in the dire debate,  
To shield his offspring, and avert his fate.

The prince gave back, not meditating flight, 495  
But urging vengeance, and severer fight ;  
Then rais'd with hope, and fir'd with glory's charms,  
His fainting squadrons to new fury warms :

O where, ye Lycians ! is the strength you boast ?  
Your former fame, and ancient virtue lost ! 500

The breach lies open, but your chief in vain  
Attempts alone the guarded pass to gain :  
Unite, and soon that hostile fleet shall fall ;  
The force of pow'rful union conquers all.

This just rebuke inflam'd the Lycian crew, 505  
They join, they thicken, and th' assault renew ;  
Unmov'd th' embody'd Greeks their fury dare,  
And fix'd support the weight of all the war ;

Nor could the Greeks repel the Lycian pow'rs,  
Nor the bold Lycians force the Grecian tow'rs. 510

As on the confines of adjoining grounds,  
Two stubborn swains with blows dispute their bounds ;  
They tug, they sweat ; but neither gain nor yield :  
One foot, one inch, of the contended field .

Thus obstinate to death, they fight, they fall ; 515  
Nor these can keep, nor those can win the wall.

Their manly breasts are pierc'd with many a wound,  
Loud strokes are heard, and rattling arms resound,  
The



The copious slaughter covers all the shore,  
And the high ramparts drop with human gore. 520

As when two scales are charg'd with doubtful loads,  
From side to side the trembling balance nods,  
(While some laborious matron, just and poor,  
With nice exactness weighs her woolly store),  
Till pois'd aloft, the resting beams suspends 525  
Each equal weight; nor this, nor that descends:  
So stood the war, till Hector's matchless might,  
With fates prevailing turn'd the scale of fight.

Fierce as a whirlwind up the walls he flies,  
And fires his host with loud repeated cries: 530

Advance, ye Trojans! lend your valiant hands!  
Haste to the fleet, and toss the blazing brands!

They hear, they run; and gath'ring at his call,  
Raise scaling engines, and ascend the wall;

Around the works a wood of glitt'ring spears 535  
Shoots up, and all the rising host appears.

A pond'rous stone bold Hector heav'd to throw,  
Pointed above, and rough and gross below:

Not two strong men th' enormous weight could raise,  
Such men as live in these degen'rate days. 540

Yet this, as easy as a swain could bear

The snowy fleece, he toss'd, and shook in air:

For Jove upheld, and lighten'd of its load

Th' unwieldy rock, the labour of a God.

Thus arm'd, before the folded gates he came, 545  
Of massy substance, and stupendous frame;

With iron bars and brazen hinges strong,

On lofty beams of solid timber hung:

Then thund'ring thro' the planks with forceful sway,  
Drives the sharp rock; the solid beams give way; 550

The folds are shatter'd; from the crackling door

Leap the resounding bars, the flying hinges roar.

Now rushing in, the furious chief appears

Gloomy as night! and shakes two shining spears:

A dreadful gleam from his bright armour came, 555  
And from his eye-balls flash'd the living flame.

He moves a God, resistless in his course,

And seems a match for more than mortal force.

Then pouring after, thro' the gaping space,

A tide of Trojans flows, and fills the place; 560

The Greeks behold, they tremble, and they fly;

The shore is heap'd with death, and tumult rends the sky



## I L I A D.

## B O O K XIII.

## THE ARGUMENT.

The fourth battle continued, in which Neptune assists the Greeks: the acts of Idomeneus.

*Neptune, concerned for the loss of the Grecians, upon seeing the fortification forced by Hector, who had entered the gate near the station of the Ajaces, assumes the shape of Calchas, and inspires those heroes to oppose him: then in the form of one of the generals, encourages the other Greeks who had retired to their vessels. The Ajaces form their troops in a close phalanx, and put a stop to Hector and the Trojans. Several deeds of valour are performed: Meriones losing his spear in the encounter, repairs to seek another at the tent of Idomeneus: this occasions a conversation between those two warriors, who return together to the battle. Idomeneus signalizes his courage above the rest; he kills Othryoneus, Asius, and Alcatous; Deiphobus and Æneas march against him, and at length Idomeneus retires. Menelaus wounds Helenus, and kills Pysander. The Trojans are repulsed in the left wing; Hector still keeps his ground against the Ajaces, till being galled by the Locrian slingers and archers, Polydamas advises to call a council of war: Hector approves his advice, but goes first to rally the Trojans: upbraids Paris, rejoins Polydamas, meets Ajax again, and renews the attack.*

*The eight and twentieth day still continues. The scene between the Grecian wall and the sea-shore.*

WHEN now the Thund'rer on the sea-beat coast  
Had fix'd great Hector and his conqu'ring host;  
He



He left them to the fates, in bloody fray  
 To toil and struggle thro' the well-fought day.  
 Then turn'd to Thracia from the field of fight  
 Those eyes that shed insufferable light,  
 To where the Mysians prove the martial force,  
 And hardy Thracians tame the savage horse;  
 And where the far-fam'd Hippemolgian strays,  
 Renown'd for justice and for length of days;  
 Thrice happy race! that, innocent of blood,  
 From milk, innoxious, seek their simple food:  
 Jove sees delighted; and avoids the scene  
 Of guilty Troy, of arms, and dying men:  
 No aid, he deems, to either host is giv'n,  
 While his high law suspends the pow'rs of heav'n.

Mean time the monarch \* of the wat'ry main  
 Observ'd the Thund'rer, nor observ'd in vain.  
 In Samothracia, on a mountain's brow,  
 Whose waving woods o'erhung the deeps below,  
 He sat; and round him cast his azure eyes,  
 Where Ida's misty tops confus'dly rise;  
 Below, fair Ilion's glitt'ring spires were seen;  
 The crouded ships, and sable seas between.  
 There, from the crystal chambers of the main,  
 Emerg'd, he sat, and mourn'd his Argives slain.  
 At Jove incens'd, with grief and fury stung,  
 Prone down the rocky steep he rush'd along;  
 Fierce as he pass'd, the lofty mountains nod,  
 The forests shake! earth trembled as he trod,  
 And felt the footsteps of th' immortal God.  
 From realm to realm three ample strides he took,  
 And, at the fourth, the distant Ægæ shook.

Far in the bay his shining palace stands,  
 Eternal frame! not rais'd by mortal hands:  
 This having reach'd, his brass-hoof'd steeds he reins,  
 Fleet as the winds, and deck'd with golden manes.  
 Refulgent arms his mighty limbs infold,  
 Immortal arms, of adamant and gold.  
 He mounts the car, the golden scourge applies,  
 He sits superior, and the chariot flies:  
 His whirling wheels the glassy surface sweep:  
 Th' enormous monsters rolling o'er the deep,

Gambol,



Gambol around him on the wat'ry way ;  
 And heavy whales in aukward measures play : 45  
 The sea subsiding spreads a level plain,  
 Exults, and owns the monarch of the main ;  
 The parting waves before his coursers fly :  
 The wond'ring waters leave his axle dry.

Deep in the liquid regions lies a cave ; 50 }  
 Between where Tenedos the surges lave,  
 And rocky Imbrus breaks the rolling wave : }  
 There the great ruler of the azure round  
 Stopt his swift chariot, and his steeds unbound,  
 Fed with ambrosial herbage from his hand, 55  
 And link'd their fetlocks with a golden band,  
 Infrangible, immortal ; there they stay.  
 The father of the floods pursues his way ;  
 Where, like a tempest dark'ning heav'n around,  
 Or fiery deluge that devours the ground, 60  
 Th' impatient Trojans, in a gloomy throng,  
 Embattled roll'd, as Hector rush'd along.

To the loud tumult and the barb'rous cry,  
 The heav'ns re-echo, and the shores reply :  
 They vow destruction to the Grecian name, 65  
 And in their hopes the fleets already flame.

But Neptune, rising from the seas profound,  
 The God whose earthquakes rock the solid ground,  
 Now wears a mortal form ; like Calchas seen,  
 Such his loud voice, and such his manly mein ; 70  
 His shouts incessant ev'ry Greek inspire,  
 But most th' Ajaces, adding fire to fire.

'Tis yours, O warriors, all our hopes to raise ;  
 Oh recollect your ancient worth and praise ;  
 'Tis yours to save us, if you cease to fear ; 75  
 Flight, more than shameful, is destructive here.  
 On other works tho' Troy with fury fall,  
 And pour her armies o'er our batter'd wall ; [thrown,  
 There, Greece has strength : but this, this part o'er-  
 Her strength were vain ; I dread for you alone. 80  
 Here Hector rages like the force of fire,  
 Vaunts of his Gods, and calls high Jove his fire.  
 If yet some heav'nly pow'r your breast excite,  
 Breathe in your hearts, and string your arms to fight,

Greece



Greece yet may live, her threaten'd fleet maintain ; 85  
And Hector's force, and Jove's own aid be vain.

Then with his sceptre that the deep controuls,  
He touch'd the chiefs, and steel'd their manly souls :  
Strength, not their own, the touch divine imparts,  
Prompts their light limbs, and swells their daring hearts.  
Then as a falcon from the rocky height, 91  
Her quarry seen, impetuous at the sight  
Forth-springing instant, darts herself from high,  
Shoots on the wing, and skims along the sky :  
Such, and so swift, the pow'r of Ocean flew ; 95  
The wide horizon shut him from their view.

Th' aspiring God, Oileus' active son  
Perceiv'd the first, and thus to Telamon,  
Some God, my friend, some God in human form,  
Fav'ring descends, and wills to stand the storm. 100  
Not Calchas this, the venerable seer ;  
Short as he turn'd, I saw the pow'r appear :  
I mark'd his parting, and the steps he trod ;  
His own bright evidence reveals a God.  
Ev'n now some energy divine I share, 105  
And seem to walk on wings, and tread in air !

With equal ardour (Telamon returns)  
My soul is kindled, and my bosom burns ;  
New-rising spirits all my force alarm,  
Lift each impatient limb, and brace my arm. 110  
This ready arm, unthinking, shakes the dart ;  
The blood pours back, and fortifies my heart ;  
Singly, methinks, yon tow'ring chief I meet,  
And stretch the dreadful Hector at my feet.

Full of the God that urg'd their burning breast, 115  
The heroes thus, their mutual warmth exprest :  
Neptune mean-while the routed Greeks inspir'd ;  
Who breathless, pale, with length of labours tir'd,  
Pant in the ships ; while Troy to conquest calls,  
And swarms victorious o'er their yielding walls : 120  
Trembling before th' impending storm they lie,  
While tears of rage stand burning in their eye,  
Greece sunk they thought, and this their fatal hour ;  
But breathe new courage as they feel the pow'r.  
Teucer and Leitus first his words excite ;  
Then stern Peneleus rises to the fight ;



Thoas, Deipyrus, in arms renown'd,  
And Merion next, th'impulsive fury found ;  
Last Nestor's son the same bold ardour takes,  
While thus the God the martial fire awakes : 130

Oh lasting infamy ! oh dire disgrace  
To chiefs of vig'rous youth, and manly race !  
I trusted in the Gods, and you, to see  
Brave Greece victorious, and her navy free :  
Ah no — the glorious combat you disclaim, 135  
And one black day clouds all her former fame.

Heav'ns ! what a prodigy these eyes survey,  
Unseen, unthought, till this amazing day !  
Fly we at length from Troy's oft-conquer'd bands ?  
And falls our fleet by such inglorious hands ? 140

A rout undisciplin'd, a straggling train,  
Not born to glories of the dusty plain ;  
Like frigated fawns from hill to hill pursu'd,  
A prey to ev'ry savage of the wood :  
Shall these, so late who trembled at your name, 145  
Invade your camps, involve your ships in flame ?

A change so shameful, say, what cause has wrought ?  
The soldier's baseness, or the general's fault ?  
Fools ! will ye perish for your leader's vice ;  
The purchase infamy, and life the price ? 150

'Tis not your cause, Achilles' injur'd fame :  
Another's is the crime, but your's the shame.  
Grant that our chief offend through rage or lust,  
Must you be cowards, if your king's unjust ?  
Prevent this evil, and your country save : 155

Small thoughts retrieves the spirits of the brave.  
Think, and subdue ! on dastards dead to fame  
I waste no anger, for they feel no shame :  
But you, the pride, the flow'r of all our host,

My heart weeps blood to see your glory lost ! 160  
Nor deem this day, this battle, all you lose ;  
A day more black, a fate more vile, ensues.

Let each reflect, who prizes fame or breath,  
On endless infamy, on instant death.  
For lo ! the fated time, th' appointed shore ; 165

Hark ! the gates burst, the brazen barriers roar !  
Impetuous Hector thunders at the wall ;  
The hour, the spot, to conquer, or to fall.



These words the Grecians fainting hearts inspire,  
And list'ning armies catch the godlike fire. 170

Fix'd at his post was each bold Ajax found,  
With well-rang'd squadrons strongly circled round :  
So close their order, so dispos'd their fight,  
As Pallas' self might view with fix'd delight ;  
Or had the God of war inclin'd his eyes, 175  
The God of war had own'd a just surprise.  
A chosen phalanx, firm, resolv'd as fate,  
Descending Hector and his battle wait.

An iron scene gleams dreadful o'er the fields,  
Armour in armour lock'd, and shields in shields, 180  
Spears lean on spears, on targets targets throng,  
Helms stuck to helms, and man drove man along.  
The floating plumes unnumber'd wave above,  
As when an earthquake stirs the nodding grove ;  
And levell'd at the skies with pointing rays, 185  
Their brandish'd lances at each motion blaze,

Thus breathing death, in terrible array,  
The close-compacted legions urg'd their way :  
Fierce they drove on, impatient to destroy ;  
Troy charg'd the first, and Hector first of Troy 190  
As from some mountain's craggy forehead torn,  
A rock's round fragment flies, with fury borne,  
(Which from the stubborn stone a torrent rends),  
Precipitate the pond'rous mass descends :  
From steep to steep the rolling ruin bounds ; 195  
At ev'ry shock the crackling wood resounds ;  
Still gath'ring force, it smokes, and urg'd amain,  
Whirls, leaps, and thunders down, impetuous to the  
plain :

There stops—So Hector. Their whole force he prov'd,  
Resistless when he rag'd, and when he stopt, unmov'd.

On him the war is bent, the darts are shed, 201  
And all their faulchions wave around his head :  
Repuls'd he stands, nor from his stand retires ;  
But with repeated shouts his army fires.

Trojans ! be firm ; this arm shall make your way, 205  
Through yon square body, and that black array :  
Stand, and my spear shall rout their scatt'ring pow'r,  
Strong as they seem embattled like a tow'r.

For



For he that Juno's heav'nly bosom warms,  
The first of Gods, this day inspires our arms. 210

He said, and rous'd the soul in ev'ry breast;  
Urg'd with desire of fame, beyond the rest,  
Forth march'd Deiphobus; but marching, held  
Before his wary steps, his ample shield.  
Bold Merion aim'd a stroke, (nor aim'd it wide;) 215  
The glitt'ring jav'lin pierc'd the tough bull-hide;  
But pierc'd not through: unfaithful to his hand,  
The point broke short, and sparkled in the sand.  
The Trojan warrior, touch'd with timely fear,  
On the rais'd orb to distance bore the spear: 220  
The Greek retreating, mourn'd his frustrate blow,  
And curs'd the treach'rous lance that spar'd a foe;  
Then to the ships with surly speed he went,  
To seek a surer jav'lin in his tent.

Mean-while, with rising rage the battle glows, 225  
The tumult thickens, and the clamour grows.  
By Teucer's arm the warlike Imbrius bleeds,  
The son of Mentor, rich in gen'rous steeds.  
Ere yet to Troy the sons of Greece were led,  
In fair Pedæus' verdant pastures bred, 230  
The youth had dwelt; remote from war's alarms,  
And bless'd in bright Medesicaste's arms:  
(This nymph, the fruit of Priam's ravish'd joy,  
Ally'd the warrior to the house of Troy).  
To Troy, when glory call'd his arms, he came, 235  
And match'd the bravest of her chiefs in fame:  
With Priam's sons, a guardian of the throne,  
He liv'd, lov'd and honour'd as his own.  
Him Teucer pierc'd between the throat and ear;  
He groans beneath the Telamonian spear. 240

As from some far-seen mountain's airy crown,  
Subdu'd by steel, a tall ash tumbles down,  
And soils its verdant tresses on the ground:  
So falls the youth; his arms the fall resound.  
Then Teucer rushing to despoil the dead, 245  
From Hector's hand a shining jav'lin fled:  
He saw, and shunn'd the death; the forceful dart  
Sung on, and pierc'd Amphimachus's heart,  
Creatus' son, of Neptune's forceful line;  
Vain was his courage and his race divine! 250



Prostrate he falls; his clanging arms resound,  
 And his broad buckler thunders on the ground.  
 To seize his beamy helm the victor flies,  
 And just had fasten'd on the dazzling prize,  
 When Ajax' manly arm a jav'lin flung; 255  
 Full on the shield's round boss the weapon rung;  
 He felt the shock, nor more was doom'd to feel,  
 Secure in mail, and sheath'd in shining steel.  
 Repuls'd he yields; the victor Greeks obtain  
 The spoils contested, and bear off the slain. 260  
 Between the leaders of th' Athenian line,  
 (Stichius the brave, Menestheus the divine),  
 Deplor'd Amphimachus, sad object! lies;  
 Imbrius remains the fierce Ajaces' prize.  
 As two grim lions bear across the lawn, 265  
 Snatch'd from devouring hounds, a slaughter'd fawn,  
 In their fell jaws high-lifting through the wood,  
 And sprinkling all the shrubs with drops of blood;  
 So these the chief: great Ajax from the dead  
 Strips his bright arms, Oileus lops his head: 270  
 Toss'd like a ball, and whirl'd in air away,  
 At Hector's feet the gory visage lay.

The God of ocean fir'd with stern disdain,  
 And pierc'd with sorrow for his grandson slain,  
 Inspires the Grecian hearts, confirms their hands, 275  
 And breathes destruction on the Trojan bands.  
 Swift as a whirlwind rushing to the fleet,  
 He finds the lance-fam'd Idomen of Crete;  
 His pensive brow the gen'rous care express  
 With which a wounded soldier touch'd his breast, 280  
 Whom in the chance of war a jav'lin tore,  
 And his sad comrades from the battle bore;  
 Him to the surgeons of the camp he sent;  
 That office paid, he issu'd from his tent,  
 Fierce for the fight: to whom the God begun, 285  
 In Thoas' voice, Andraemon's valiant son,  
 Who rul'd where Calydon's white rocks arise,  
 And Pleuron's chalky cliffs emblaze the skies.

Where's now th' imperious vaunt, the daring boast  
 Of Greece victorious, and proud Ilion lost! 290

To whom the king: On Greece no blame be thrown,  
 Arms are her trade, and war is all her own.

Her



Her hardy heroes from the well fought plains  
 Nor fear with-holds, nor shameful sloth detains.  
 'Tis heav'n, alas ! and Jove's all-pow'rful doom, 295  
 That far, far distant from our native home  
 Wills us to fall, inglorious ! Oh my friend !  
 Once foremost in the fight, still prone to lend  
 Or arms, or counsels ; now perform thy best,  
 And what thou canst not singly, urge the rest. 300

Thus he ; and thus the God, whose force can make  
 The solid globe's eternal basis shake :  
 Ah ! never may he see his native land,  
 But feed the vultures on this hateful strand,  
 Who seeks ignobly in his ships to stay, 305  
 Nor dares to combat on this signal day !  
 For this, behold ; in horrid arms I shine,  
 And urge thy soul to rival acts with mine ;  
 Together let us battle on the plain ;  
 Two, not the worst ; nor ev'n this succour vain : 310  
 Not vain the weakest, if their force unite ;  
 But ours, the bravest have confess'd in fight.

This said, he rushes where the combat burns :  
 Swift to his tent the Cretan king returns.  
 From thence, two jav'lines glitt'ring in his hand, 315  
 And clad in arms that lighten'd all the strand,  
 Fierce on the foe th' impetuous hero drove ;  
 Like lightning bursting from the arm of Jove,  
 Which to pale man the wrath of heav'n declares,  
 Or terrifies th' offending world with wars ; 320  
 In streamy sparkles, kindling all the skies,  
 From pole to pole the trail of glory flies.

Thus his bright armour o'er the dazzled throng  
 Gleam'd dreadful, as the monarch flash'd along.  
 Him, near his tent, Meriones attends ; 325  
 Whom thus he questions : Ever best of friends !  
 O say, in ev'ry art of battle skill'd,  
 What holds thy courage from so brave a field ?  
 On some important message art thou bound,  
 Or bleeds my friend by some unhappy wound ? 330  
 Inglorious here, my soul abhors to stay,  
 And glows with prospects of th' approaching day.

O prince ! (Meriones replies), whose care  
 Leads forth th' embattled sons of Crete to war ;



This speaks my grief; this headless lance I wield; 335  
The rest lies rooted in a Trojan shield.

To whom the Cretan: Enter, and receive  
The wanted weapons; these my tent can give;  
Spears I have store, (and Trojan lances all),  
That shed a lustre round th' illumin'd wall. 340  
Though I, disdainful of the distant war,  
Nor trust the dart, or aim th' uncertain spear,  
Yet hand to hand I fight, and spoil the slain;  
And thence these trophies and these arms I gain.  
Enter, and see on heaps the helmets roll'd, 345  
And high-hung spears, and shields that flame with gold.

Nor vain (said Merion) are our martial toils;  
We too can boast of no ignoble spoils.  
But those my ship contains; whence distant far,  
I fight conspicuous in the van of war. 350

What need I more? If any Greek there be  
Who knows not Merion, I appeal to thee.

To this Idomeneus: The fields of fight  
Have prov'd thy valour, and unconquer'd might;  
And were some ambush for the foes design'd, 355  
Ev'n there thy courage would not lag behind.  
In that sharp service, singled from the rest,  
The fear of each, or valour, stands confest.

No force, no firmness, the pale coward shows;  
He shifts his place; his colour comes and goes; 360  
A dropping sweat creeps cold on ev'ry part;  
Against his bosom beats his quiv'ring heart;  
Terror and death in his wild eye-balls stare;  
With chatt'ring teeth he stands, and stiff'ning hair,  
And looks a bloodless image of despair! 365

Not so the brave——still dauntless, still the same,  
Unchang'd his colour, and unmov'd his frame;  
Compos'd his thought, determin'd is his eye,  
And fix'd his soul, to conquer or to die:  
If aught disturb the tenor of his breast, 370  
'Tis but the wish to strike before the rest.

In such essays thy blameless worth is known,  
And ev'ry art of dang'rous war thy own.  
By chance of fight whatever wounds you bore,  
Those wounds were glorious all, and all before; 375  
Such



Such as may teach, 'twas still thy brave delight  
T' oppose thy bosom where the foremost fight.  
But why, like infants, cold to honour's charms,  
Stand we to talk, when glory calls to arms!  
Go—from my conquer'd spears the choicest take, 380  
And to their owners send them nobly back.

Swift as the word bold Merion snatch'd a spear,  
And breathing slaughter followed to the war.  
So Mars armipotent invades the plain,  
(The wide destroyer of the race of man), 385  
Terror, his best lov'd son, attends his course,  
Arm'd with stern boldness, and enormous force;  
The pride of haughty warriors to confound,  
And lay the strength of tyrants on the ground:  
From Thrace they fly, call'd to the dire alarms 390  
Of warring Phlegyans, and Ephyrian arms;  
Invok'd by both, relentless they dispose  
To these glad conquest, murd'rous rout to those.  
So march'd the leaders of the Cretan train,  
And their bright arms shot horror o'er the plain. 395

Then first spake Merion: Shall we join the right,  
Or combat in the centre of the fight:  
Or to the left our wanted succour lend;  
Hazard and fame all parts alike attend.  
Not in the centre, (Idomen reply'd,) 400  
Our ablest chieftians the main battle guide;  
Each godlike Ajax makes that post his care,  
And gallant Teucer deals destruction there:  
Skill'd, or with shafts to gall the distant field,  
Or bear close battle on the sounding shield. 405  
These can the rage of haughty Hector tame;  
Safe in their arms, the navy fears no flame;  
Till Jove himself descends, his bolts to shed,  
And hurl the brazen ruin at our head.  
Great must he be, of more than human birth, 410  
Nor feed like mortals on the fruits of earth,  
Him neither rocks can crush, nor steel can wound,  
Whom Ajax fells not on th' ensanguin'd ground.  
In standing fight he mates Achilles' force,  
Excell'd alone in swiftness in the course. 415  
Then to the left our ready arms apply,  
And live with glory, or with glory die.

He



He said ; and Merion to th' appointed place,  
 Fierce as the God of battles, urg'd his pace.  
 Soon as the foe the shining chiefs beheld  
 Rush like a fiery torrent o'er the field, 420

Their force embody'd in a tide they pour ;  
 The rising combat sounds along the shore.  
 As warring winds, in Sirius' sultry reign,  
 From diff'rent quarters sweep the sandy plain ; 425  
 On ev'ry side the dusty whirlwinds rise,  
 And the dry fields are lifted to the skies :

Thus by despair, hope, rage, together driv'n,  
 Met the black hosts, and meeting, darken'd heav'n.  
 All dreadful glar'd the iron face of war, 430

Bristled with upright spears, that flash'd afar ;  
 Dire was the gleam, of breast-plates, helms, and shields,  
 And polish'd arms emblaz'd the flaming fields :  
 Tremendous scene ! that gen'ral horror gave,  
 But touch'd with joy the bosoms of the brave. 435

Saturn's great sons in fierce contention vy'd,  
 And crouds of heroes in their anger dy'd.  
 The fire of earth and heav'n, by Phetis won  
 To crown with glory Peleus' godlike son,  
 Will'd not destruction to the Grecian pow'rs, 440  
 But spar'd a while the destin'd Trojan tow'rs ;

While Neptune rising from his azure main,  
 Warr'd on the king of heav'n with stern disdain,  
 And breath'd revenge, and fir'd the Grecian train. }  
 Gods of one source, of one æthereal race, 445

Alike divine, and heav'n their native place ;  
 But Jove the greater ; first-born of the skies,  
 And more than men, or Gods, supremely wise.  
 For this, of Jove's superior might afraid,  
 Neptune in human form conceal'd his aid. 450

These pow'rs infold the Greek and Trojan train  
 In war and discord's adamant chain,  
 Indissolubly strong ; the fatal tie  
 Is stretch'd on both, and close compell'd they die.

Dreadful in arms, and grown in combats grey, 455  
 The bold Idomeneus controls the day.  
 First by his hand Othryoneus was slain,  
 Swell'd with false hopes, with mad ambition vain !

Call'd



Call'd by the voice of war to martial fame,  
From high Cabesus' distant walls he came; 460  
Cassandra's love he fought with boasts of power,  
And promis'd conquest was the proffer'd dow'r.  
The king consented, by his vaunts abus'd;  
The king consented, but the fates refus'd.  
Proud of himself, and of th' imagin'd bride, 465  
The field he measur'd with a larger stride.  
Him, as he stalk'd, the Cretan jav'lin found:  
Vain was his breast-plate to repel the wound:  
His dream of glory lost, he plung'd to hell:  
His arms resounding as the boaster fell. 470

The great Idomeneus bestrides the dead;  
And thus, (he cries) behold thy promise sped!  
Such is the help thy arms to Ilion bring,  
And such the contract of the Phrygian king!  
Our offers now, illustrious prince! receive; 475  
For such an aid what will not Argos give?  
To conquer Troy, with ours thy forces join,  
And count Atreides' fairest daughter thine.  
Mean-time, on farther methods to advise,  
Come, follow to the fleet thy new allies; 480  
There hear what Greece has on her part to say.  
He spoke, and dragg'd the gory corse away.

This Asius view'd, unable to contain,  
Before his chariot warring on the plain!  
(His crouded courfers, to his squire consign'd, 485  
Impatient panted on his neck behind);  
To vengeance rising with a sudden spring,  
He hop'd the conquest of the Cretan king.  
The wary Cretan, as his foe drew near,  
Full on his throat discharg'd the forceful spear: 490  
Beneath the chin the point was seen to glide,  
And glitter'd, extant at the farther side.  
As when the mountain-oak, or poplar tall,  
Or pine, fit mast for some great admiral,  
Groans to the oft heav'd axe, with many a wound, 495  
Then spreads a length of ruin o'er the ground:  
So sunk proud Asius in that dreadful day,  
And stretch'd before his much-lov'd courfers lay.  
He grinds the dust distain'd with streaming gore,  
And, fierce in death, lies foaming on the shore. 500

Depriv'd



Depriv'd of motion, stiff with stupid fear,  
 Stands all aghast his trembling charioteer,  
 Nor shuns the foe, nor turns the steeds away,  
 But falls transfix'd, an unresisting prey:  
 Pierc'd by Antilochus, he pants beneath 505  
 The stately car, and labours out his breath,  
 Thus Asius' steeds (their mighty master gone)  
 Remain the prize of Nestor's youthful son.  
 Stabb'd at the sight, Deiphobus drew nigh,  
 And made, with force, the vengeful weapon fly. 510  
 The Cretan saw; and stooping, caus'd to glance  
 From his slop shield, the disappointed lance.  
 Beneath his spacious targe, (a blazing round,  
 Thick with bull-hides, and brazen orbits bound,  
 On his rais'd arm by two strong braces stay'd), 515  
 He lay collected in defensive shade.  
 O'er his safe head the jav'lin idly sung,  
 And on the tinkling verge more faintly rung.  
 Ev'n then, the spear the vig'rous arm confest,  
 And pierc'd, obliquely, king Hypsenor's breast: 520  
 Warm'd in his liver, to the ground it bore  
 The chief, his people's guardian now no more!  
 Not unattended, (the proud Trojan cries),  
 Nor unreveng'd, lamented Asius lies:  
 For thee, though hell's black portals stand display'd, 525  
 This mate shall joy thy melancholy shade.  
 Heart-piercing anguish, at the haughty boast,  
 Touch'd ev'ry Greek, but Nestor's son the most  
 Griev'd as he was, his pious arms attend,  
 And his broad buckler shields his slaughter'd friend; 530  
 Till sad Mecistheus and Alastor bore  
 His honour'd body to the tented shore.  
 Nor yet from fight Idomeneus withdraws;  
 Resolv'd to perish in his country's cause,  
 Or find some foe whom heav'n and he shall doom 535  
 To wail his fate in death's eternal gloom.  
 He sees Alcathous in the front aspire;  
 Great Æsyetes was the hero's fire;  
 His spouse Hippodamè, divinely fair,  
 Anchises eldest hope, and darling care; 540  
 Who charm'd her parent's and her husband's heart,  
 With beauty, sense, and ev'ry work of art :  
 He



He once, of Ilion's youth, the loveliest boy,  
 The fairest she, of all the fair of Troy.  
 By Neptune now the hapless hero dies, 545  
 Who covers with a cloud those beauteous eyes,  
 And fetters ev'ry limb : yet bent to meet  
 His fate he stands ; nor shuns the lance of Crete.  
 Fix'd as some column, or deep rooted oak,  
 (While the winds sleep), his breast receiv'd the stroke.  
 Before the pond'rous stroke his corslet yields, 551  
 Long us'd to ward the death in fighting fields.  
 The riven armour sends a jarring sound :  
 His lab'ring heart heaves with so strong a bound,  
 The long lance shakes, and vibrates in the wound ;  
 Fast-flowing from its source, as prone he lay, 556  
 Life's purple tide impetuous gush'd away.

Then Idomen, insulting o'er the slain ;  
 Behold, Deiphobus ! nor vaunt in vain ;  
 See ! on one Greek three Trojan ghosts attend, 560  
 This, my third victim, to the shades I send.  
 Approaching now, thy boasted might approve,  
 And try the prowess of the seed of Jove.  
 From Jove, enamour'd on a mortal dame,  
 Great Minos, guardian of his country, came : 565  
 Deucalion, blameless prince ! was Minos' heir ;  
 His first-born I, the third from Jupiter :  
 O'er spacious Crete, and her bold sons I reign,  
 And thence my ships transport me thro' the main :  
 Lord of a host, o'er all my host I shine, 570  
 A scourge to thee, thy father and thy line.

The Trojan heard ; uncertain, or to meet  
 Alone, with vent'rous arms, the king of Crete ;  
 Or seek auxiliar force : at length decreed  
 To call some hero to partake the deed, 575  
 Forthwith Æneas rises to his thought ;  
 For him, in Troy's remotest lines, he sought ;  
 Where he, incens'd at partial Priam, stands,  
 And sees superior posts in meaner hands.  
 To him, ambitious of so great an aid, 580  
 The bold Deiphobus approach'd, and said :

Now, Trojan prince, employ thy pious arms,  
 If e'er thy bosom felt fair honour's charms.

Alcathous



Alcathous dies, thy brother and thy friend !  
 Come, and the warrior's lov'd remains defend. 585  
 Beneath his cares thy early youth was train'd,  
 One table fed you, and one roof contain'd.  
 This deed to fierce Idomeneus we owe ;  
 Haste, and revenge it on th' insulting foe.

Æneas heard, and for a space resign'd 590  
 To tender pity all his manly mind ;  
 Then rising in his rage, he burns to fight ;  
 The Greek awaits him, with collected might.  
 As the fell boar on some rough mountain's head,  
 Arm'd with wild terrors, and to slaughter bred, 595  
 When the loud rustics rise, and shout from far,  
 Attends the tumult, and expects the war ;  
 O'er his bent back the bristly horrors rise,  
 Fires stream in light'ning from his sanguine eyes,  
 His foaming tusks both dogs and men engage, 600  
 But most his hunters rouse his mighty rage :

So stood Idomeneus, his jav'lin thook,  
 And met the Trojan with a lowering look.  
 Antilochus, Deïpyrus were near,  
 The youthful offspring of the God of war. 605  
 Merion, and Aphareus, in field renown'd :  
 To these the warrior sent his voice around.  
 Fellows in arms ! your timely aid unite ;  
 Lo ! great Æneas rushes to the fight :  
 Sprung from a God, and more than mortal bold ; 610  
 He fresh in youth, and I in arms grown old :  
 Else should this hand, this hour decide the strife,  
 The great dispute, of glory, or of life.

He spoke, and all as with one soul obey'd ;  
 Their lifted bucklers cast a dreadful shade 615  
 Around the chief. Æneas too demands  
 Th' assisting forces of his native bands :  
 Paris, Deïphobus, Agenor join ;  
 (Co-aids and captains of the Trojan line) ;  
 In order follow all th' embody'd train ; 620  
 Like Ida's flocks proceeding o'er the plain ;  
 Before his fleecy care, erect and bold,  
 Stalks the proud ram, the father of the fold :  
 With joy the swain surveys them, as he leads  
 To the cool fountains, through the well known meads.



So joys Æneas, as his native band  
Moves on in rank' and stretches o'er the land. 626

Round dead Alcathous now the battle rose ;  
On ev'ry side the steely circle grows ;  
Now batter'd breast-plates and hack'd helmets ring, 630  
And o'er their heads unheeded jav'lins sing.

Above the rest, two tow'ring chiefs appear,  
There great Idomeneus, Æneas here.  
Like Gods of war, dispensing fate, they stood,  
And burn'd to drench the ground with mutual blood.  
The Trojan weapon whizz'd along in air, 636

The Cretan saw, and shunn'd the brazen spear :  
Sent from an arm so strong, the missive wood  
Stuck deep in earth, and quiver'd where it stood.  
But Oenomas receiv'd the Cretan's stroke, 640

The forceful spear his hollow corslet broke,  
It ripp'd his belly with a ghastly wound,  
And roll'd the smoking entrails to the ground :  
Stretch'd on the plain he sobs away his breath,  
And furious grasps the bloody dust in death. 645

The victor from his breast the weapon tears ;  
(His spoils he could not for the show'r of spears).  
Though now unfit an active war to wage,  
Heavy with cumb'rous arms, stiff with cold age,  
His listless limbs unable for the course ; 650

In standing fight he yet maintains his force ;  
Till faint with labour, and by foes repell'd,  
His tir'd, slow steps, he drags from off the field.

Deiphobus beheld him as he past,  
And, fir'd with heat, a parting jav'lin cast : 655  
The jav'lin err'd, but held its course along,  
And pierces Ascalaphus the brave and young ;  
The son of Mars fell gasping on the ground,  
And gnash'd the dust all bloody with his wound.

Nor knew the furious father of his fall ; 660  
High-thron'd amidst the great Olympian hall,  
On golden clouds th' immortal synod sat ;  
Detain'd from bloody war by Jove and Fate.

Now, where in dust the breathless hero lay,  
For slain Ascalaphus commenc'd the fray : 665  
Deiphobus to seize his helmet flies,  
And from his temples rends the glitt'ring prize :



Valiant as Mars, Meriones drew near,  
 And on his loaded arm discharg'd his spear :  
 He drops the weight, disabled with the pain; 670  
 The hollow helmet rings against the plain.  
 Swift as a vulture leaping on his prey,  
 From his torn arm the Grecian rent away  
 The reeking jav'lin, and rejoin'd his friends.  
 His wounded brother good Polites tends ; 675  
 Around his waist his pious arms he threw,  
 And from the rage of combat gently drew :  
 Him his swift courfers, on his splendid car,  
 Rapt from the less'ning thunder of the war ;  
 To Troy they drove him, groaning from the shore, 680  
 And sprinkling, as he past, the sands with gore.  
 Mean-while fresh slaughter bathes the sanguine ground,  
 Heaps fall on heaps, and heav'n and earth resound.  
 Bold Aphareus by great Æneas bled ;  
 As tow'r'd the chief he turn'd his daring head, 685  
 He pierc'd his throat ; the bending head, deprest  
 Beneath his helmet, nods upon his breast ;  
 His shield revers'd o'er the fall'n warrior lies ;  
 And everlasting slumber seals his eyes.  
 Antilochus, as Thöon turn'd him round, 690  
 Transpierc'd his back with a dishonest wound ;  
 The hollow vein that to the neck extends  
 Along the chine, his eager jav'lin rends :  
 Supine he falls, and to his social train  
 Spreads his imploring arms, but spreads in vain. 695  
 Th' exulting victor, leaping where he lay,  
 From his broad shoulders tore the spoils away ;  
 His time observ'd ; for clos'd by foes around,  
 On all sides thick the peals of arms resound.  
 His shield emboss'd the ringing storms sustains, 700  
 But he impervious and untouch'd remains.  
 (Great Neptune's care preserv'd from hostile rage  
 This youth, the joy of Nestor's glorious age) ;  
 In arms intrepid, with the first he fought,  
 Fac'd ev'ry foe, and ev'ry danger fought : 705  
 His winged lance, resistless as the wind,  
 Obeys each motion of the master's mind,

Restless



Restless it flies, impatient to be free,  
 And meditates the distant enemy.  
 The son of Asius, Adamus, drew near, 710  
 And struck his target with the brazen spear,  
 Fierce in his front; but Neptune wards the blow,  
 And blunts the jav'lin of th' eluded foe.  
 In the broad buckler half the weapon stood;  
 Splinter'd on earth flew half the broken wood. 715  
 Disarm'd, he mingled in the Trojan crew;  
 But Merion's spear o'ertook him as he flew,  
 Deep in the belly's rim an entrance found,  
 Where sharp the pang, and mortal is the wound. }  
 Bending he fell, and doubled to the ground, 720 }  
 Lay panting. Thus an ox, in fetters ty'd,  
 While death's strong pangs distend his lab'ring side,  
 His bulk enormous on the field displays;  
 His heaving heart beats thick, as ebbing life decays.  
 The spear, the conqu'ror from his body drew, 725  
 And death's dim shadows swam before his view.  
 Next brave Deipyrus in dust was laid;  
 King Helenus wav'd high the Thracian blade,  
 And smote his temples with an arm so strong,  
 The helm fell off, and roll'd amid the throng: 730  
 There, for some luckier Greek it rests a prize,  
 For dark in death the godlike owner lies!  
 Raging with grief great Menelaus burns,  
 And, fraught with vengeance, to the victor turns;  
 That shook the pond'rous lance, in act to throw, 735  
 And this stood adverse with the bended bow:  
 Full on his breast the Trojan arrow fell,  
 But harmless bounded from the plated steel.  
 As on some ample barn's well-harden'd floor,  
 (The winds collected at each open door), 740  
 While the broad fan with force is whirl'd around,  
 Light leaps the golden grain, resulting from the ground:  
 So from the steel that guards Atrides' heart,  
 Repell'd to distance flies the bounding dart.  
 Atrides, watchful of th' unwary foe, 745  
 Pierc'd with his lance the hand that grasp'd the bow,  
 And nail'd it to the yew: the wounded hand  
 Trail'd the long lance that mark'd with blood the sand:  
 Y 2 But



But good Agenor gently from the wound  
The spear solicits, and the bandage bound ; 750  
A sling's soft wool, snatch'd from a soldier's side,  
At once the tent and ligature supply'd.

Behold ! Pisander, urg'd by fate's decree,  
Springs through the ranks to fall, and fall by thee,  
Great Menelaus ! To enhance thy fame, 755  
High tow'ring in the front the warrior came.

First the sharp lance was by Atrides thrown ;  
The lance far distant by the winds was blown.  
Nor pierc'd Pisander through Atrides' shield ;  
Pisander's spear fell shiver'd on the field. 760

Not so discourag'd, to the future blind,  
Vain dreams of conquest swell his haughty mind ;  
Dauntless he rushes where the Spartan lord  
Like lightning brandish'd his far-beaming sword.

His left arm high oppos'd the shining shield : 765  
His right, beneath, the cover'd pole-ax held ;  
(An olive's cloudy grain the handle made,  
Distinct with studs ; and brazen was the blade) :

This on the helm discharg'd a noble blow ;  
The plume dropp'd nodding to the plain below, 770  
Shorn from the crest. Atrides wav'd his steel ;  
Deep through his front the weighty faulchion fell ;

The crashing bones before its force gave way ;  
In dust and blood the groaning hero lay ;  
Forc'd from their ghastly orbs, and spouting gore, 775  
The clotted eye-balls tumble on the shore.

The fierce Atrides spurn'd him as he bled,  
Tore off his arms, and, loud exulting, said :

Thus Trojans, thus, at length be taught to fear ;  
O race perfidious, who delight in war ! 780  
Already noble deeds ye have perform'd,  
A princess rapt transcends a navy storm'd :

In such bold feats your impious might approve,  
Without th' assistance, or the fear of Jove.  
The violated rites, the ravish'd dame, 785

Our heroes slaughter'd, and our ships on flame,  
Crimes heap'd on crimes, shall bend your glory down,  
And whelm in ruins yon flagitious town.

O thou, great Father ! Lord of earth and skies,  
Above the thought of man, supremely wise ! 790

If



If from thy hand the fates of mortals flow,  
 From whence this favour to an impious foe,  
 A godless crew, abandon'd and unjust,  
 Still breathing rapine, violence, and lust?  
 The best of things beyond their measure cloy; 795  
 Sleep's balmy blessing, love's endearing joy:  
 The feast, the dance; whate'er mankind desire,  
 Ev'n the sweet charms of sacred numbers tire.  
 But Troy for ever reaps a dire delight  
 In thirst of slaughter, and in lust of fight. 800

Thus said, he seiz'd (while yet the carcase heav'd)  
 The bloody armour, which his train receiv'd:  
 Then sudden mix'd among the warring crew,  
 And the bold son of Pylæmenes flew.  
 Harpalion had thro' Asia travell'd far, 805  
 Following his martial father to the war:  
 Thro' filial love he left his native shore,  
 Never, ah never, to behold it more!  
 His unsuccessful spear he chanc'd to fling  
 Against the target of the Spartan king; 810  
 Thus of his lance disarm'd, from death he flies,  
 And turns around his apprehensive eyes.  
 Him, thro' the hip, transpiercing as he fled,  
 The shaft of Merion mingled with the dead.  
 Beneath the bone the glancing point descends, 815  
 And driving down, the swelling bladder rends:  
 Sunk in his sad companions arms he lay,  
 And in short pantings sobb'd his soul away;  
 (Like some vile worm extended on the ground),  
 While life's red torrent gush'd from out the wound. 820

Him on his car the Paphlagonian train  
 In slow procession bore from off the plain.  
 The pensive father, father now no more!  
 Attends the mournful pomp along the shore;  
 And unavailing tears profusely shed, 825  
 And, unreveng'd, deplor'd his offspring dead.

Paris from far the moving sight beheld,  
 With pity soften'd, and with fury swell'd:  
 His honour'd host, a youth of matchless grace,  
 And lov'd of all the Paphlagonian race! 830  
 With his full strength he bent his angry bow,  
 And wing'd the feather'd vengeance at the foe.



A chief there was, the brave Euchenor nam'd,  
 For riches much, and more for virtue fam'd,  
 Who held his seat in Corinth's stately town ; 835  
 Polydus' son, a peer of old renown.

Oft had the father told his early doom,  
 By arms abroad, or slow disease at home :  
 He climb'd his vessel, prodigal of breath,  
 And chose the certain glorious path to death. 840

Beneath his ear the pointed arrow went ;  
 The soul came issuing at the narrow vent :  
 His limbs, unnerv'd, drop uselefs on the ground,  
 And everlasting darkness shades him round.

Nor knew great Hector how his legions yield, 845  
 (Wrapt in the cloud and tumult of the field) ;

Wide on the left the force of Greece commands,  
 And conquest hovers o'er the Achaian bands :  
 With such a tide superior virtue sway'd,  
 And he that shakes the solid earth gave aid. 850

But in the centre Hector fix'd remain'd,  
 Where first the gates were forc'd, and bulwarks gain'd ;  
 There, on the margin of the hoary deep,  
 (Their naval station where th' Ajaces keep,  
 And where low walls confine the beating tides, 855  
 Whose humble barrier scarce the foes divides ;  
 Where late in fight both horse and foot engag'd,  
 And all the thunder of the battle rag'd) ;

There join'd the whole Bæotian strength remains,  
 The proud Ionians with their sweeping trains, 860  
 Locrians and Phthians, and th' Epean force ;  
 But join'd, repel not Hector's fiery course.

The flow'r of Athens, Stichius, Phidias led ;  
 Bias, and great Menestheus at their head.

Meges the strong th' Epeian bands controll'd, 865  
 And Dracius prudent, and Amphion bold ;  
 The Phthians Medon, fam'd for martial might,  
 And brave Podacres, active in the fight.

This drew from Phylacus his noble line ;  
 Iphiclus' son : and that, Oileus, thine : 870

(Young Ajax' brother, by a stol'n embrace ;  
 He dwelt far distant from his native place,  
 By his fierce stepdame from his father's reign  
 Expell'd and exil'd, for her brother slain.)

These



These rule the Phthians, and their arms employ, 875  
Mix'd with Bœotians, on the shores of Troy.

Now, side by side, with like unweary'd care,  
Each Ajax labour'd thro' the field of war.

So when two lordly bulls, with equal toil,  
Force the bright ploughshare thro' the fallow foil, 880

Join'd to one yoke, the stubborn earth they tear,  
And trace large furrows with the shining share ;

O'er their huge limbs the foam descends in snow,  
And streams of sweat down their four foreheads flow.

A train of heroes follow'd thro' the field, 885  
Who bore by turns great Ajax' sev'nfold shield ;

Whene'er he breath'd, remissive of his might,  
'Tir'd with th' incessant slaughters of the fight.

No following troops his brave associate grace :  
In close engagement an unpractis'd race, 890

The Locrian squadrons nor the jav'lin wield,  
Nor bear the helm, nor lift the moony shield,

But skill'd from far the flying shaft to wing,  
Or whirl the founding pebble from the sling,

Dext'rous with these they aim a certain wound, 895  
Or fell the distant warrior to the ground.

Thus in the van, the Telamonian train  
Throng'd in bright arms, a pressing fight maintain ;

Far in the rear the Locrian archers lie,  
Whose stones and arrows intercept the sky, 900

The mingled tempest on the foes they pour ;  
Troy's scatt'ring orders open to the show'r.

Now had the Greeks eternal fame acquir'd,  
And the gall'd Ilians to their walls retir'd ;

But sage Polydamas, discreetly brave, 905  
Address'd great Hector, and this counsel gave:

Though great in all, thou seem'st averse to lend  
Impartial audience to a faithful friend ;

To Gods and men thy matchless worth is known,  
And ev'ry art of glorious war thy own ; 910

But in cool thought and counsel to excel,  
How widely differs this from warring well ?

Content with what the bounteous Gods have giv'n,  
Seek not alone t' ingross the gifts of heav'n.

To some the pow'rs of bloody war belong, 915  
To some, sweet music, and the charm of song ;

To



To few, and wond'rous few, has Jove assign'd  
 A wife, extensive, all confid'ring mind;  
 Their guardians these, the nations round confess,  
 And towns and empires for their safety blest. 920

If heav'n have lodg'd this virtue in my breast,  
 Attend, O Hector, what I judge the best.

See, as thou mov'st, on dangers dangers spread,  
 And war's whole fury burns around thy head.

Behold! distress'd within yon hostile wall, 925  
 How many Trojans yield, disperse, or fall?

What troops out-number'd, scarce the war maintain?  
 And what brave heroes at the ships lie slain?

Here cease thy fury; and the chiefs and kings  
 Convok'd to council, weigh the sum of things. 930

Whether (the Gods succeeding our desires)  
 To yon tall ships to bear the Trojan fires;

Or quit the fleet, and pass unhurt away,  
 Contented with the conquest of the day.

I fear, I fear, lest Greece, not yet undone, 935  
 Pay the large debt of last revolving sun;

Achilles, great Achilles, yet remains  
 On yonder decks, and yet o'erlooks the plains!

The counsel pleas'd; and Hector with a bound,  
 Leap'd from his chariot on the trembling ground;  
 Swift as he he leap'd, his clanging arms resound. 941

To guard this post (he cry'd) thy art employ,  
 And here detain the scatter'd youth of Troy;

Where yonder heroes faint, I bend my way,  
 And hasten back to end the doubtful day. 945

This said, the tow'ring chief prepares to go,  
 Shakes his white plumes that to the breezes flow,

And seems a moving mountain topt with snow,  
 Through all his host, inspiring force he flies,

And bids anew the martial thunder rise. 950

To Panthus' son, at Hector's high command,  
 Haste the bold leaders of the Trojan band:

But round the battlements, and round the plain,  
 For many a chief he look'd, but look'd in vain;

Deiphobus, nor Helenus the seer, 955  
 Nor Asius' son, nor Asius self appear.

For these were pierc'd with many a ghastly wound,  
 Some cold in death, some groaning on the ground;  
 Some



Some low in dust (a mournful object) lay;  
High on the wall some breath'd their souls away. 960  
Far on the left, amid the throng he found  
(Cheering the troops, and dealing deaths around)  
The graceful Paris; whom, with fury mov'd,  
Opprobrious, thus, th' impatient chief reprov'd:

Ill-fated Paris! slave to womankind, 965  
As smooth of face as fraudulent of mind!  
Where is Deiphobus, where Asius gone?  
The godlike father, and th' intrepid son?  
The force of Helenus, dispensing fate,  
And great Othryoneus, so fear'd of late? 970  
Black fate hangs o'er thee from th' avenging Gods,  
Imperial Troy from her foundations nods;  
Whelm'd in thy country's ruins shalt thou fall,  
And one devouring vengeance swallow all.

When Paris thus: My brother and my friend, 975  
Thy warm impatience makes thy tongue offend.  
In other battles I deserv'd thy blame,  
Though then not deedless, nor unknown to fame:  
But since yon rampart by thy arms lay low,  
I scatter'd slaughter from my fatal bow. 980

The chiefs you seek on yonder shore lie slain;  
Of all those heroes, two alone remain;  
Deiphobus, and Helenus the seer,  
Each now disabled by a hostile spear.  
Go then, successful, where thy soul inspires; 985  
This heart and hand shall second all thy fires:  
What with this arm I can, prepare to know,  
Till death for death be paid, and blow for blow.  
But 'tis not ours, with forces not our own  
To combat; strength is of the Gods alone. 990

These words the hero's angry mind assuage:  
Then fierce they mingle where the thickest rage,  
Around Polydamas, distain'd with blood,  
Cebriion, Phalces, stern Orthœus stood,  
Palmas, with Polypoetes the divine, 995  
And two bold brothers of Hippotion's line,  
(Who reach'd fair Ilion, from Ascania far,  
The former day: the next engag'd in war.)  
As when from gloomy clouds a whirlwind springs,  
That bears Jove's thunder on its dreadful wings, 1000

Wide



Wide o'er the blasted fields the tempest sweeps ;  
 Then gather'd, settles on the hoary deeps ;  
 Th' afflicted deeps tumultuous mix and roar ;  
 The waves behind impel the waves before,  
 Wide rolling, foaming high, and tumbling to the shore. }  
 Thus rank on rank the thick battalions throng, 1006

Chief urg'd on chief, and man drove man along,  
 Far o'er the plains in dreadful order bright,  
 The brazen arms reflect a beamy light :  
 Full in the blazing van great Hector shin'd, 1010  
 Like Mars commission'd to confound mankind.

Before him flaming his enormous shield,  
 Like the broad sun, illumin'd all the field :  
 His nodding helm emits a streamy ray ;  
 His piercing eyes through all the battle stray, 1015  
 And, while beneath his targe he flash'd along,  
 Shot terrors round, that wither'd even the strong.

Thus stalk'd he, dreadful ; death was in his look ;  
 Whole nations fear'd : but not an Argive shook.  
 The tow'ring Ajax, with an ample stride, 1020  
 Advanc'd the first, and thus the chief defy'd :

Hector ! come on, thy empty threats forbear ;  
 'Tis not thy arm, 'tis thund'ring Jove we hear ;  
 The skill of war to us not idly giv'n,  
 Lo ! Greece is humbled, not by Troy, but heav'n. 1025  
 Vain are the hopes that haughty mind imparts,  
 To force our fleet : the Greeks have hands and hearts.  
 Long ere in flames our lofty navy fall,  
 Your boasted city, and your god-built wall,  
 Shall sink beneath us, smoking on the ground ; 1030  
 And spread a long unmeasur'd ruin round.

The time shall come, when chac'd along the plain,  
 Ev'n thou shalt call on Jove, and call in vain ;  
 Ev'n thou shalt wish, to aid thy desp'rate course,  
 The wings of falcons for thy flying horse ; 1035  
 Shalt run, forgetful of a warrior's fame,  
 While clouds of friendly dust conceal thy shame.

As thus he spoke, behold, in open view,  
 On founding wings a dexter eagle flew.  
 To Jove's glad omen all the Grecians rise, 1040  
 And hail, with shouts, his progress thro' the skies :

Far



Far-echoing clamours bound from side to side :  
They ceas'd, and thus the chief of Troy reply'd :  
From whence this menace, this insulting strain ?  
Enormous boaster ! doom'd to vaunt in vain. 1045  
So may the Gods on Hector life bestow,  
(Not that short life which mortals lead below,  
But such as those of Jove's high lineage born,  
The blue-ey'd maid, or he that gilds the morn),  
As this decisive day shall end the fame 1050  
Of Greece, and Argos be no more a name.  
And thou, imperious ! if thy madness wait  
The lance of Hector, thou shalt meet thy fate :  
That giant-corse, extended on the shore,  
Shall largely feast the fowls with fat and gore. 1055  
He said, and like a lion stalk'd along :  
With shouts incessant earth and ocean rung,  
Sent from his following host : the Grecian train  
With answ'ring thunders fill'd the echoing plain :  
A shout that tore heav'n's concave, and above 1060  
Shook the fix'd splendors of the throne of Jove.

THE



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K XIV.

### T H E A R G U M E N T.

Juno deceives Jupiter by the girdle of Venus.

*Nestor sitting at the table with Machaön, is alarmed with the increasing clamour of the war, and hastens to Agamemnon: on his way he meets that prince with Diomed and Ulysses, whom he informs of the extremity of the danger. Agamemnon proposes to make their escape by night, which Ulysses withstands: to which Diomed adds his advice, that, wounded as they were, they should go forth and encourage the army with their presence: which advice is pursued. Juno seeing the partiality of Jupiter to the Trojans, forms a design to over-reach him; she sets off her charms with the utmost care, and (the more surely to enchant him) obtains the magic girdle of Venus. She then applies herself to the God of Sleep; and, with some difficulty, persuades him to seal the eyes of Jupiter; this done, she goes to mount Ida, where the God, at first sight, is ravished with her beauty, sinks in her embraces, and is laid asleep. Neptune takes advantage of his slumber, and succours the Greeks: Hector is struck to the ground with a prodigious stone by Ajax, and carried off from the battle: several actions succeeded; till the Trojans, much distressed, are obliged to give way: the lesser Ajax signalizes himself in a particular manner.*

**B**UT nor the genial feast, nor flowing bowl,  
 Could charm the cares of Nestor's watchful soul!  
 His startled ears th' increasing cries attend;  
 Then thus, impatient, to his wounded friend:



What new alarm, divine Machaön, say 5  
 What mix'd events attend this mighty day?  
 Hark! how the shouts divide, and how they meet,  
 And now come full, and thicken to the fleet!  
 Here, with the cordial draught dispel thy care,  
 Let Hecamede the strength'ning bath prepare, 10  
 Refresh thy wound, and cleanse the clotted gore;  
 While I th' adventures of the day explore.

He said: and seizing Thrasimedes' shield,  
 (His valiant offspring), hasten'd to the field;  
 (That day, the son his father's buckler bore), 15  
 Then snatch'd a lance and issu'd from the door.  
 Soon as the prospect open'd to his view,  
 His wounded eyes the scene of sorrow knew;  
 Dire disarray! the tumult of the fight,  
 The wall in ruins, and the Greeks in flight. 20  
 As when old ocean's silent surface sleeps,  
 The waves just heaving on the purple deeps:  
 While yet th' expected tempest hangs on high,  
 Weighs down the cloud, and blackens in the sky,  
 The mass of waters will no wind obey; 25  
 Jove sends one gust, and bids them roll away.  
 While wav'ring counsels thus his mind engage,  
 Fluctuates in doubtful thought the Pylian sage,  
 To join the host, or to the gen'ral haste;  
 Debating long, he fixes on the last: 30  
 Yet, as he moves, the fight his bosom warms;  
 The field rings dreadful with the clang of arms;  
 The gleaming faulchions flash, the jav'lins fly;  
 Blows echo blows, and all or kill, or die.

Him, in his march, the wounded princes meet, 35  
 By tardy steps ascending from the fleet:  
 The king of men, Ulysses the divine,  
 And who to Tydeus owes his noble line.  
 (Their ships at distance from the battle stand,  
 In lines advanc'd along the shelving strand; 40  
 Whose bay the fleet unable to contain  
 At length, beside the margin of the main,  
 Rank above rank, the crouded ships they moor:  
 Who landed first, lay highest on the shore).  
 Supported on their spears, they took their way, 45  
 Unfit to fight, but anxious for the day.



Nestor's approach alarm'd each Grecian breast,  
Whom thus the gen'ral of the host addrest:

O grace and glory of th' Achaian name!  
What drives thee, Nestor, from the field of fame? 50  
Shall then proud Hector see his boast fulfill'd,  
Our fleets in ashes, and our heroes kill'd?  
Such was his threat, ah! now too soon made good,  
On many a Grecian bosom writ in blood.  
Is ev'ry heart inflam'd with equal rage 55  
Against your king, nor will one chief engage?  
And have I liv'd to see with mournful eyes  
In ev'ry Greek a new Achilles rise?

Grecian Nestor then. So fate has will'd;  
And all-confirming time has fate fulfill'd. 60  
Not he that thunders from th' aërial bow'r,  
Not Jove himself upon the past has pow'r,  
The wall, our late inviolable bound,  
And best defence, lies smoking on the ground:  
Ev'n to the ships their conqu'ring arms extend, 65  
And groans of slaughter'd Greeks to heav'n ascend.  
On speedy measures then employ your thought,  
In such distress, if council profit ought;  
Arms cannot much, though Mars our souls incite;  
These gaping wounds with-hold us from the fight. 70

To him the monarch: That our army bends,  
That Troy triumphant our high fleet ascends,  
And that the rampart late our surest trust,  
And best defence, lies smoking in the dust;  
All this from Jove's afflictive hand we bear, 75  
Who, far from Argos, wills our ruin here.  
Past are the days when happier Greece was blest'd,  
And all his favour, all his aid confess'd:  
Now heav'n averse, our hands from battle ties,  
And lifts the Trojan glory to the skies. 80  
Cease we at length to waste our blood in vain,  
And launch what ships lie nearest to the main;  
Leave these at anchor till the coming night:  
Then, if impetuous Troy forbear the fight,  
Bring all to sea, and hoist each sail for flight, 85  
Better from evils, when foreseen, to run,  
Than perish in the danger we may shun.

Thus



Thus he The sage Ulysses thus replies,  
 While anger flash'd from his disdainful eyes:  
 What shameful words, unkingly as thou art, 90  
 Fall from that trembling tongue, and tim'rous heart?  
 Oh were thy sway the curse of meaner pow'rs,  
 And thou the shame of any host but ours!  
 A host, by Jove endu'd with martial might,  
 And taught to conquer, or to fall in fight: 95  
 Advent'rous combats and bold wars to wage,  
 Employ'd our youth, and yet employs our age.  
 And wilt thou thus desert the Trojan plain?  
 And have whole streams of blood been spilt in vain?  
 In such base sentence if thou couch thy fear, 100  
 Speak it in whispers, lest a Greek should hear.  
 Lives there a man so dead to fame, who dares  
 To think such meannesses, or the thought declares?  
 And comes it ev'n from him whose sov'reign sway  
 The banded legions of all Greece obey? 105  
 Is this a gen'ral's voice, that calls to flight,  
 While war hangs doubtful, while his soldiers fight?  
 What more could Troy? What yet their fate denies,  
 Thou giv'st the foe; all Greece becomes their prize.  
 No more the troops (our hoisted sails in view,) 110  
 Themselves abandon'd shall the fight pursue;  
 Thy ships first flying with despair shall see,  
 And owe destruction to a prince like thee.

Thy just reproofs (Atrides calm replies)  
 Like arrows pierce me, for thy words are wise. 115  
 Unwilling as I am to lose the host,  
 I force not Greece to quit this hateful coast.  
 Glad I submit, whoe'er, or young or old,  
 Aught more conducive to our weal unfold.

Tydides cut him short, and thus began: 120  
 Such counsel if you seek, behold the man  
 Who boldly gives it, and what he shall say,  
 Young though he be, disdain not to obey.  
 A youth, who from the mighty Tydeus springs,  
 May speak to counsels and assembled kings. 125  
 Hear then in me the great Oenides' son,  
 Whose honour'd dust (his race of glory run)  
 Lies whelm'd in ruins of the Theban wall;  
 Brave in his life, and glorious in his fall.



With three bold sons was gen'rous Prothous blest'd, 130  
 Who Pleuron's walls and Calydon possess'd;  
 Melas and Agrius, but (who far surpass  
 The rest in courage) Oeneus was the last.  
 From him, my sire. From Calydon expell'd,  
 He pass'd to Argos, and in exile dwell'd; 135  
 The monarch's daughter there (so Jove ordain'd)  
 He won, and flourish'd where Adrastus reign'd;  
 There rich in fortune's gifts, his acres till'd,  
 Beheld his vines their liquid harvest yield,  
 And num'rous flocks that whiten'd all the field. 140  
 Such Tydeus was, the foremost once in fame!  
 Nor lives in Greece a stranger to his name.  
 Then, what for common good my thoughts inspire,  
 Attend, and in the son respect the sire.  
 Though sore of battle, though with wounds oppress'd, 145  
 Let each go forth, and animate the rest.  
 Advance the glory which he cannot share,  
 Though not partaker, witness of the war.  
 But lest new wounds on wounds o'erpow'r us quite,  
 Beyond the missile jav'lin's sounding flight, 150  
 Safe let us stand; and from the tumult far,  
 Inspire the ranks, and rule the distant war.  
 He added not: the list'ning kings obey,  
 Slow moving on; Atrides leads the way.  
 The God of Ocean (to inflame their rage) 155  
 Appears a warrior furrow'd o'er with age;  
 Press'd in his own, the gen'ral's hand he took,  
 And thus the venerable hero spoke:  
 Atrides, lo! with what disdainful eye  
 Achilles sees his country's forces fly; 160  
 Blind impious man! whose anger is his guide,  
 Who glories in unutterable pride.  
 So may he perish, so may Jove disclaim  
 The wretch relentless, and o'erwhelm with shame!  
 But heav'n forsakes not thee: o'er yonder sands 165  
 Soon shalt thou view the scatter'd Trojan bands  
 Fly diverse; while proud kings and chiefs renown'd,  
 Driv'n heaps on heaps, with clouds involv'd around  
 Of rolling dust, their winged wheels employ  
 To hide their ignominious heads in Troy. 170  
 He



He spoke, then rush'd amid the warrior-crew ;  
 And sent his voice before him as he flew,  
 Loud as the shout encount'ring armies yield,  
 When twice ten thousand shake the lab'ring field ;  
 Such was the voice, and such the thund'ring sound 175  
 Of him, whose trident rends the solid ground.  
 Each Argive bosom beats to meet the fight,  
 And grisly war appears a pleasing fight.

Mean-time Saturnia from Olympus' brow,  
 High thron'd in gold, beheld the fields below ; 180  
 With joy the glorious conflict she survey'd,  
 Where her great brother gave the Grecians aid.  
 But plac'd aloft, on Ida's shady height  
 She sees her Jove, and trembles at the sight.  
 Jove to deceive, what methods shall she try, 185  
 What arts, to blind his all-beholding eye ?

At length she trusts her pow'r ; resolv'd to prove  
 " The old, yet still successful, cheat of love ;"  
 Against his wisdom to oppose her charms,  
 And lull the Lord of thunders in her arms. 190

Swift to her bright apartment she repairs,  
 Sacred to dress and beauty's pleasing cares :  
 With skill divine had Vulcan form'd the bow'r,  
 Safe from access of each intruding pow'r.  
 Touch'd with her secret key, the doors unfold ; 195  
 Self-clos'd, behind her shut the valves of gold.  
 Here first she bathes ; and round her body pours  
 Soft oils of fragrance, and ambrosial show'rs :  
 The winds, perfum'd, the balmy gale convey  
 Thro' heav'n, thro' earth, and all th' aërial way ; 200

Spirit divine ! whose exhalation greets  
 The sense of Gods with more than mortal sweets.  
 Thus while she breath'd of heav'n, with decent pride  
 Her artful hands the radiant tresses ty'd ;  
 Part on her head in single ringlets roll'd, 205  
 Part o'er her shoulders wav'd like melted gold.  
 Around her next a heav'nly mantle flow'd,  
 That rich with Pallas' labour'd colours glow'd :  
 Large clasps of gold the foldings gather'd round,  
 A golden zone her swelling bosom bound. 210  
 Far-beaming pendants tremble in her ear,  
 Each gem illumin'd with a triple star.



Then o'er her head she casts a veil more white  
 Than new-fall'n snow, and dazzling as the light.  
 Last her fair feet celestial sandals grace, 215  
 Thus issuing radiant, with majestic pace,  
 Forth from the doom th' imperial Goddess moves,  
 And calls the mother of the smiles and loves.

How long (to Venus thus apart she cry'd)  
 Shall human strifes celestial minds divide? 220  
 Ah yet will Venus aid Saturnia's joy,  
 And set aside the cause of Greece and Troy?

Let heav'n's dread empress (Cytharæa said)  
 Speak her request, and deem her will obey'd.  
 Then grant me (said the queen) those conqu'ring charms,  
 That pow'r which mortals and immortals warms, 225  
 That love which melts mankind in fierce desires,  
 And burns the sons of heav'n with sacred fires!

For lo! I haste to these remote abodes,  
 Where the great parents (sacred source of Gods!) 230  
 Ocean and Tethys their old empire keep,  
 On the last limits of the land and deep.  
 In their kind arms my tender years were past;  
 What time old Saturn, from Olympus cast,  
 Of upper heav'n to Jove resign'd the reign, 235  
 Whelm'd under the huge mass of earth and main.  
 For strife, I hear, has made the union cease,  
 Which held so long that ancient pair in peace.  
 What honour, and what love shall I obtain,  
 If I compose those fatal feuds again; 240  
 Once more their minds in mutual ties engage,  
 And what my youth has ow'd, repay their age!

She said. With awe divine the queen of love  
 Obey'd the sister and the wife of Jove:  
 And from her fragrant breast the zone unbrac'd, 245  
 With various skill, and high embroid'ry grac'd.  
 In this was ev'ry art, and ev'ry charm,

To win the wisest, and the coldest warm:  
 Fond love, the gentle vow, the gay desire,  
 The kind deceit, the still-reviving fire, 250  
 Persuasive speech, and more persuasive sighs,  
 Silence that spoke, and eloquence of eyes.

This on her hand the Cyprian Goddess laid:  
 Take this, and with it all thy wish, she said,

With



With smiles she took the charm; and smiling prest  
The pow'rful cestus to her snowy breast. 355

Then Venus to the courts of Jove withdrew;  
Whilst from Olympus pleas'd Saturnia flew.  
O'er high Pieria thence her course she bore,  
O'er fair Emathia's ever-pleasing shore, 260  
O'er Hæmus hills with snows eternal crown'd;  
Nor once her flying foot approach'd the ground.

Then taking wing from Atho's lofty steep,  
She speeds to Lemnos o'er the rolling deep,  
And seeks the cave of Death's half-brother, Sleep. 265  
Sweet pleasing Sleep! (Saturnia thus began),  
Who spread'st thy empire o'er each God and man;  
If e'er obsequious to thy Juno's will,  
O pow'r of slumbers! hear and favour still.

Shed thy soft dew on Jove's immortal eyes, 270  
While sunk in love's entrancing joys he lies.  
A splendid footstool, and a throne, that shine  
With gold unfading, Somnus, shall be thine;  
The work of Vulcan; to indulge thy ease,  
When wine and feasts thy golden humours please. 275

Imperial dame, (the balmy pow'r replies),  
Great Saturn's heir, and empress of the skies!  
O'er other Gods I spread my easy chain;  
The fire of all, old Ocean, owns my reign,  
And his hush'd waves lie silent on the main. 280

But how, unbidden, shall I dare to steep  
Jove's awful temples in the dew of sleep?  
Long since too vent'rous, at thy bold command,  
On those eternal lids I laid my hand:  
What time, deserting Ilion's wasted plain, 283  
His conqu'ring son, Alcides, plough'd the main.

When lo! the deeps arise, the tempests roar,  
And drive the hero to the Coan shore:  
Great Jove awaking, shook the blest'd abodes  
With rising wrath, and tumbled Gods on Gods; 290  
Me chief he sought, and from the realms on high  
Had hurl'd indignant to the nether sky,

But gentle Night, to whom I fled for aid,  
(The friend of earth and heav'n), her wings display'd;  
Impower'd the wrath of Gods and men to tame; 295  
Ev'n Jove rever'd the venerable dame.



Vain are thy fears (the queen of heav'n replies,  
 And speaking, rolls her large majestic eyes).  
 Think'st thou that Troy has Jove's high favour won,  
 Like great Alcides, his all-conqu'ring son? 300  
 Hear, and obey the mistress of the skies,  
 Nor for the deed expect a vulgar prize;  
 For know, thy lov'd one shall be ever thine,  
 The youngest Grace, Pasithaë the divine. 304

Swear then (she said) by these tremendous floods  
 That roar thro' hell, and bind th' invoking Gods:  
 Let the great parent Earth one hand sustain,  
 And stretch the other o'er the sacred main.  
 Call the black Titans, that with Chronos dwell,  
 To hear and witness from the depths of hell; 310  
 That she, my lov'd one, shall be ever mine,  
 The youngest Grace, Pasithaë the divine.

The queen assents, and from th' infernal bow'rs,  
 Invokes the fable subtartarean pow'rs,  
 And those who rule th' inviolable floods, 315  
 Whom mortals name the dread Titanian Gods.

Then swift as wind o'er Lemnos' smoky isle,  
 They wing their way, and Imbrus' sea-beat soil;  
 Thro' air unseen, involv'd in darkness glide,  
 And light on Lectos, on the point of Ide; 320  
 (Mother of savages, whose echoing hills  
 Are heard resounding with a hundred rills).  
 Fair Ida trembles underneath the God;  
 Hush'd are her mountains, and her forests nod.  
 There on a fir, whose spiry branches rise 325  
 To join its summit to the neighb'ring skies,  
 Dark in embow'ring shade, conceal'd from sight,  
 Sat Sleep, in likeness of the bird of night.  
 (Chalcis his name by those of heav'nly birth,  
 But call'd Cymindis by the race of earth.) 330

To Ida's top successful Juno flies;  
 Great Jove surveys her with desiring eyes:  
 The God, whose light'ning sets the heav'ns on fire,  
 Thro' all his bosom feels the fierce desire;  
 Fierce as when first by stealth he seiz'd her charms, 335  
 Mix'd with her soul, and melted in her arms.  
 Fix'd on her eyes he fed his eager look,  
 Then press'd her hand, and thus with transport spoke:

Why



Why comes my Goddess from th' æthereal sky,  
And not her steeds and flaming chariot nigh? 340

Then she—I haste to those remote abodes,  
Where the great parents of the deathless Gods,  
The rev'rend Ocean and gray Tethys reign,  
On the last limits of the land and main.  
I visit these, to whose indulgent cares 345  
I owe the nursing of my tender years.

For strife, I hear, has made that union cease,  
Which held so long this ancient pair in peace.  
The steeds prepar'd my chariot to convey  
O'er earth and seas, and through th' aerial way, 350

Wait under Ide: of thy superior pow'r  
To ask consent, I leave th' Olympian bow'r;  
Nor seek, unknown to thee, the sacred cells  
Deep under seas, where hoary ocean dwells.

For that (said Jove) suffice another day; 355  
But eager love denies the least delay.

Let softer cares the present hour employ,  
And be these moments sacred all to joy.  
Ne'er did my soul so strong a passion prove,  
Or for an earthly, or a heav'nly love: 360

Not when I press'd Ixion's matchless dame,  
Whence rose Perithous like the Gods in fame.

Not when fair Danaë felt the show'r of gold  
Stream into life, whence Perseus brave and bold.

Not thus I burn'd for either Theban dame, 365  
(Bacchus from this, from that Alcides came).

Not Phoenix' daughter, beautiful and young,  
Whence godlike Rhadamanth and Minos sprung.

Not thus I burn'd for fair Latona's face,  
Nor comelier Ceres' more majestic grace, 370

Not thus ev'n for thyself I felt desire,  
As now my veins receive the pleasing fire.

He spoke; the Goddess with the charming eyes  
Glow'd with celestial red, and thus replies:

Is this a scene for love? On Ida's height 375  
Expos'd to mortal and immortal sight;

Our joys profan'd by each familiar eye;  
The sport of heav'n, and fable of the sky.

How shall I e'er review the blest'd abodes,  
Or mix among the senate of the Gods! 380

Shall



Shall I not think, that, with disorder'd charms,  
 All heav'n beholds me recent from thy arms?  
 With skill divine has Vulcan form'd thy bow'r,  
 Sacred to love and to the genial hour;  
 If such thy will, to that recess retire, 383  
 And secret there indulge thy soft desire.

She ceas'd; and smiling with superior love,  
 Thus answer'd mild the cloud-compelling Jove.  
 Nor God, nor mortal, shall our joys behold,  
 Shaded with clouds, and circumfus'd in gold; 390  
 Not ev'n the sun, who darts through heav'n his rays,  
 And whose broad eye th' extended earth surveys.

Gazing he spoke, and kindling at the view,  
 His eager arms around the Goddesses threw.  
 Glad earth perceives, and from her bosom pours 395  
 Unbidden herbs and voluntary flow'rs:

Thick new-born v'lets a soft carpet spread,  
 And clust'ring Lotos swell'd the rising bed,  
 And sudden hyacinths the turf bestrow,  
 And flamy Crocus made the mountain glow. 400  
 There golden clouds conceal the heav'nly pair,  
 Steep'd in soft joys, and circumfus'd with air;  
 Celestial dews, descending o'er the ground,  
 Perfume the mount, and breathe Ambrosia round.  
 At length with love and sleep's soft pow'r oppress'd, 404  
 The panting Thund'rer nods, and sinks to rest.

Now, to the navy borne on silent wings,  
 To Neptune's ear soft Sleep his message brings;  
 Beside him sudden, unperceiv'd he stood,  
 And thus with gentle words address'd the God: 410

Now, Neptune! now th' important hour employ,  
 To check a while the haughty hopes of Troy:  
 While Jove yet rests, while yet my vapours shed  
 The golden vision round his sacred head;  
 For Juno's love, and Somnus' pleasing ties, 415  
 Have clos'd those awful and eternal eyes.

Thus having said, the pow'r of slumber flew,  
 On human lids to drop the balmy dew.  
 Neptune, with zeal increas'd, renews his care,  
 And tow'ring in the foremost ranks of war, 420  
 Indignant thus——Oh once of martial fame!  
 O Greeks! if yet ye can deserve the name!

This



This half-recover'd day shall Troy obtain !  
Shall Hector thunder at your ships again ?  
Lo still he vaunts, and threats the fleet with fires, 425  
While stern Achilles in his wrath retires.  
One hero's loss too tamely you deplore,  
Be still yourselves, and we shall need no more.  
Oh yet, if glory any bosom warms,  
Brace on your firmest helms, and stand to arms : 430  
His strongest spear each valiant Grecian wield,  
Each valiant Grecian seize his broadest shield ;  
Let to the weak the lighter arms belong,  
The pond'rous targe be wielded by the strong.  
(Thus arm'd) not Hector shall our presence stay ; 435  
Myself, ye Greeks ! myself will lead the way.

The troops assent ; their martial arms they change,  
The busy chiefs their banded legions range.  
The kings, tho' wounded, and oppress'd with pain,  
With helpful hands themselves assist the train. 440  
The strong and cumb'rous arms the valiant wield,  
The weaker warrior takes a lighter shield.  
Thus sheath'd in shining brass, in bright array,  
The legions march, and Neptune leads the way :  
His brandish'd faulchion flames before their eyes, 445  
Like lightning flashing thro' the frightened skies :  
Clad in his might th' earth-shaking pow'r appears ;  
Pale mortals tremble, and confess their fears.

Troy's great defender stands alone unaw'd,  
Arms his proud host, and dares oppose a God : 450  
And lo : the God and wondrous man appear :  
The sea's stern ruler there, and Hector here.  
The roaring main, at her great master's call,  
Rose in huge ranks, and form'd a wat'ry wall  
Around the ships : seas hanging o'er the shores, 455  
Both armies join : earth thunders, ocean roars.  
Not half so loud the bellowing deeps resound,  
When stormy winds disclose the dark profound ;  
Less loud the winds, that from th' Æolian hall  
Roar thro' the woods, and make whole forests fall ; 460  
Less loud the woods, when flames in torrents pour,  
Catch the dry mountain, and its shades devour.  
With such a rage the meeting hosts are driv'n,  
And such a clamour shakes the sounding heav'n.

The



The first bold jav'lin urg'd by Hector's force, 465  
 Direct at Ajax' bosom wing'd its course ;  
 But there no pass the crossing belts afford,  
 (One brac'd his shield, and one sustain'd his sword).  
 Then back the disappointed Trojan drew,  
 And curs'd the lance that unavailing flew : 470  
 But 'scap'd not Ajax ; his tempestuous hand  
 A pond'rous stone up-heaving from the sand,  
 (Where heaps laid loose beneath the warrior's feet,  
 Or serv'd to ballast, or to prop the fleet) ;  
 Toss'd round and round, the missive marble flings ; 475  
 On the rais'd shield the fallen ruin rings,  
 Full on his breast and throat with force descends ;  
 Nor deaden'd there its giddy fury spends,  
 But whirling on with many a fiery round,  
 Smokes in the dust, and ploughs into the ground. 480  
 As when the bolt, red-hissing from above,  
 Darts on the consecrated plant of Jove,  
 The mountain-oak in flaming ruin lies,  
 Black from the blow, and smokes of sulphur rise ;  
 Stiff with amaze the pale beholders stand, 485  
 And own the terrors of th' almighty hand !  
 So lies great Hector prostrate on the shore ;  
 His slacken'd hand deserts the lance it bore ;  
 His following shield the fallen chief o'erspread ;  
 Beneath his helmet dropp'd his fainting head ; 490  
 His load of armour sinking to the ground,  
 Clanks on the field ; a dead and hollow sound.  
 Loud shouts of triumph fill the crouded plain ;  
 Greece sees, in hope, Troy's great defender slain :  
 All spring to seize him ; storms of arrows fly ; 495  
 And thicker jav'lins intercept the sky.  
 In vain an iron tempest hisses round ;  
 He lies protected, and without a wound.  
 Polydamas, Agenor the divine,  
 The pious warrior of Anchises' line, 500  
 And each bold leader of the Lycian band,  
 With cov'ring shields (a friendly circle) stand.  
 His mournful followers, with assistant care,  
 The groaning hero to his chariot bear ;  
 His foaming courfers, swifter than the wind, 505  
 Speed to the town, and leave the war behind,



When now they touch'd the mead's enamel'd side,  
 Where gentle Xanthus rolls his easy tide,  
 With wat'ry drops the chief they sprinkle round,  
 Plac'd on the margin of the flow'ry ground. 510  
 Rais'd on his knees, he now ejects the gore;  
 Now faints anew, low-sinking on the shore;  
 By fits he breathes, half views the fleeting skies,  
 And seals again, by fits, his swimming eyes.

Soon as the Greeks the chief's retreat beheld, 515  
 With double fury each invades the field.  
 Oilean Ajax first his jav'lin sped,  
 Pierce'd by whose point the son of Enops bled;  
 (Satnius the brave, whom beauteous Neïs bore  
 Amidst her flocks on Satnio's silver shore); 520  
 Struck thro' the belly's rim, the warrior lies  
 Supine, and shades eternal veil his eyes.

An arduous battle rose around the dead:  
 By turns the Greeks, by turns the Trojans bled.  
 Fir'd with revenge, Polydamas drew near, 525  
 And at Prothœnor shook the trembling spear;  
 The driving jav'lin through his shoulder thrust,  
 He sinks to earth, and grasps the bloody dust.  
 Lo thus (the victor cries) we rule the field,  
 And thus their arms the race of Panthus wield: 530  
 From this unerring hand there flies no dart  
 But bathes its point within a Grecian heart.

Propt on that spear to which thou ow'st thy fall,  
 Go, guide thy darksome steps to Pluto's dreary hall!  
 He said, and sorrow touch'd each Argive breast: 535  
 The soul of Ajax burn'd above the rest.

As by his side the groaning warrior fell,  
 At the fierce foe he lanch'd his piercing steel;  
 The foe reclining, shunn'd the flying death:  
 But fate, Archelochus, demands thy breath: 540  
 Thy lofty birth no succour could impart,  
 The wings of death o'ertook thee on the dart,  
 Swift to perform heav'n's fatal will it fled,  
 Full on the juncture of the neck and head,  
 And took the joint, and cut the nerves in twain: 545  
 The dropping head first tumbled to the plain,  
 So just the stroke, that yet the body stood  
 Erect, then roll'd along the sands in blood.



Here, proud Polydamas, here turn thy eyes !  
(The tow'ring Ajax loud insulting cries) ; 550  
Say, is the chief extended on the plain,  
A worthy vengeance for Prothœnor slain ?  
Mark well his port ! his figure and his face  
Nor speak him vulgar, nor of vulgar race ;  
Some lines, methinks, may make his lineage known,  
Antenor's brother, or perhaps his son. 556

He spake, and smil'd severe, for well he knew  
The bleeding youth : Troy sadden'd at the view.  
But furious Acamas aveng'd his cause :  
As Promachus his slaughter'd brother draws, 560  
He pierc'd his heart.—Such fate attends you all,  
Proud Argives ! destin'd by our arms to fall.  
Not Troy alone, but haughty Greece shall share  
The toils, the sorrows, and the wounds of war.  
Behold your Promachus depriv'd of breath, 565  
A victim ow'd to my brave brother's death.  
Not unappeas'd he enters Pluto's gate,  
Who leaves a brother to revenge his fate.

Heart-piercing anguish struck the Grecian host,  
But touch'd the breast of bold Peneleus most ; 570  
At the proud boaster he directs his course ;  
The boaster flies, and shuns superior force.  
But young Ilioneus receiv'd the spear ;  
Ilioneus, his father's only care :  
(Phorbas the rich, of all the Trojan train 575  
Whom Hermes lov'd, and taught the arts of gain),  
Full on his eye the weapon chanc'd to fall,  
And from the fibres scoop'd the rooted ball,  
Drove thro' the neck, and hurl'd him to the plain :  
He lifts his miserable arms in vain ! 580  
Swift his broad faulchion fierce Peneleus spread,  
And from the spouting shoulders struck his head ;  
To earth at once the head and helmet fly ;  
The lance, yet striking thro' the bleeding eye,  
The victor seiz'd ; and as aloft he shook 585  
The gory visrge, thus insulting spoke.

Trojans ! your great Ilioneus behold !  
Haste, to his father let the tale be told :  
Let his high roofs resound with frantic woe,  
Such, as the house of Promachus must know ; 590  
Let



Let doleful tidings greet his mother's ear,  
Such as to Promachus' sad spouse we bear;  
When we victorious shall to Greece return,  
And the pale matron in our triumphs mourn.

Dreadful he spoke, then toss'd the head on high; 595  
The Trojans hear, they tremble and they fly:  
Aghast they gaze around the fleet and wall,  
And dread the ruin that impends on all.

Daughters of Jove! that on Olympus shine,  
Ye all-beholding, all recording Nine!  
O say, when Neptune made proud Ilion yield,  
What chief, what hero first embu'd the field?  
Of all the Grecians what immortal name,  
And whose blest trophies will ye raise to fame?

Thou first, great Ajax! on th' ensanguin'd plain 605  
Laid Hyrtius, leader of the Mysian train.  
Phalces and Mermer, Nestor's son o'erthrew;  
Bold Merion Morys and Hippotion flew.  
Strong Periphætès and Prothoön bled,  
By Teucer's arrows mingled with the dead. 610  
Pierc'd in the flank by Menelaüs' steel,  
His people's pastor, Hyperenor fell;  
Eternal darkness wrapt the warrior round,  
And the fierce soul came rushing thro' the wound.  
But stretch'd in heaps before Oileus son, 615  
Fall mighty numbers, mighty numbers run;  
Ajax the less, of all the Grecian race  
Skill'd in pursuit, and swiftest in the chace.



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K    X V.

### T H E   A R G U M E N T.

The fifth battle, at the ships ; and the acts of Ajax.

*Jupiter awaking, sees the Trojans repulsed from the trenches, Hector in a swoon, and Neptune at the head of the Greeks : he is highly incensed at the artifice of Juno, who appeases him by her submissions ; she is then sent to Iris and Apollo. Juno repairing to the assembly of the Gods, attempts, with extraordinary address, to incense them against Jupiter ; in particular she touches Mars with a violent resentment : he is ready to take arms, but is prevented by Minerva. Iris and Apollo obeys the orders of Jupiter ; Iris commands Neptune to leave the battle, to which, after much reluctance and passion, he consents. Apollo reinspires Hector with vigour, brings him back to the battle, marches before him with his ægis, and turns the fortune of the fight. He breaks down great part of the Grecian wall : the Trojans rush in, and attempt to fire the first line of the fleet, who are, as yet, repelled by the greater Ajax, with a prodigious slaughter.*

**N**OW in swift flight they pass the trench profound,  
 And many a chief lay gasping on the ground :  
 Then stopt and panted, where the chariots lie ;  
 Fear on their cheek, and horror in their eye.  
 Mean-while awaken'd from his dream of love,  
 On Ida's summit sat imperial Jove :  
 Round the wide fields he cast a careful view,  
 There saw the Trojans fly, the Greeks pursue ;

These



These proud in arms, those scatter'd o'er the plain;  
And 'midst the war, the monarch of the main. 10

Not far, great Hector on the dust he spies,  
(His sad associates round with weeping eyes),  
Ejecting blood, and panting yet for breath,  
His senses wand'ring to the verge of death.  
The God beheld him with a pitying look, 15  
And thus, incens'd, to fraudulent Juno spoke.

O thou, still adverse to th' eternal will,  
For ever studious in promoting ill!  
Thy arts have made the godlike Hector yield,  
And driv'n his conqu'ring squadrons from the field. 20

Can'st thou, unhappy in thy wiles withstand  
Our pow'r immense, and brave th' almighty hand?  
Hast thou forgot, when bound and fix'd on high,  
From the vast concave of the spangled sky,  
I hung thee trembling, in a golden chain; 25  
And all the raging Gods oppos'd in vain?

Headlong I hurl'd them from th' Olympian hall,  
Stunn'd in the whirl, and breathless with the fall.  
For godlike Hercules these deeds were done,  
Nor seem'd the vengeance worthy such a son; 30

When, by thy wiles induc'd, fierce Boreas tost  
The shipwreck'd hero on the Coan coast:  
Him through a thousand forms of death I bore,  
And sent to Argos, and his native shore.  
Hear this, remember, and our fury dread, 35  
Nor pull th' unwilling vengeance on thy head;  
Lest arts and blandishments successless prove,  
Thy soft deceits, and well-dissembled love.

The Thund'rer spoke: imperial Juno mourn'd,  
And trembling, these submissive words return'd. 40

By ev'ry oath that pow'rs immortal ties,  
The foodful earth, and all-infolding skies,  
By thy black waves, tremendous Styx! that flow  
Through the drear realms of gliding ghosts below:  
By the dread honours of thy sacred head, 45  
And that unbroken vow, our virgin bed!  
Not by my arts the ruler of the main  
Steeps Troy in blood, and ranges round the plain:  
By his own ardour, his own pity sway'd  
To help his Greeks; he fought, and disobey'd: 50



Else had thy Juno better counsel giv'n,  
And taught submission to the fire of heav'n.

Think'st thou with me! fair empress of the skies!  
(Th' immortal father with a smile replies!)

Then soon the haughty sea-god shall obey, 55  
Nor dare to act, but when we point the way.

If truth inspires thy tongue, proclaim our will

To yon bright synod on th' Olympian hill;

Our high decree let various Iris know,

And call the God that bears the silver bow. 60

Let her descend, and from th' embattled plain

Command the sea-god to his wat'ry reign;

While Phœbus hastes, great Hector to prepare

To rise afresh, and once more wake the war,

His lab'ring bosom reinspires with breath, 65

And call his senses from the verge of death.

Greece chas'd by Troy ev'n to Achilles' fleet,

Shall fall by thousands at the hero's feet.

He, not untouch'd with pity, to the plain

Shall send Patroclus, but shall send in vain. 70

What youth he slaughters under Ilion's walls!

Ev'n my lov'd son, divine Sarpedon falls!

Vanquish'd at last by Hector's lance he lies.

Then, not till then, shall great Achilles rise:

And lo! that instant godlike Hector dies. 75

From that great hour the war's whole fortune turns,

Pallas assists, and lofty Ilion burns.

Not till that day shall Jove relax his rage,

Nor one of all the heav'nly host engage

In aid of Greece. The promise of a God 80

I gave, and seal'd it with th' almighty nod,

Achilles' glory to the stars to raise;

Such was our word, and fate the word obeys.

The trembling queen (the almighty order giv'n)

Swift from th' Idæan summit shot to heav'n. 85

As some way-faring man, who wanders o'er,

In thought, a length of lands he tread before,

Sends forth his active mind from place to place,

Joins hill to dale, and measures space with space:

So swift flew Juno to the bless'd abodes, 90

If thought of man can match the speed of Gods.

There



There sat the pow'rs in awful synod plac'd ;  
They bow'd, and made obeisance as she pass'd,  
Thro' all the brazen dome : with goblets crown'd  
They hail her queen ; the nectar streams around. 95  
Fair Themis first presents the golden bowl,  
And anxious asks what cares disturb her soul ?

To whom the white-arm'd Goddess thus replies.  
Enough thou know'st the tyrant of the skies,  
Severely bent his purpose to fulfil, 100  
Unmov'd his mind, and unrestrain'd his will.  
Go thou, the feasts of heav'n attend thy call ;  
Bid the crown'd nectar circle round the hall ;  
But Jove shall thunder thro' th' ætherial dome,  
Such stern decrees, such threat'ned woes to come, 105  
As soon shall freeze mankind with dire surprise,  
And damp th' eternal banquets of the skies.

The Goddess said, and sullen took her place ;  
Black horror sadden'd each celestial face.  
To see the gath'ring grudge in ev'ry breast, 110  
Smiles on her lips a spleenful joy express ;  
While on her wrinkled front, and eye-brow bent,  
Sat steadfast care, and low'ring discontent.  
Thus she proceeds.—Attend, ye pow'rs above !  
But know, 'tis madness to contend with Jove : 115  
Supreme he sits ; and sees, in pride of sway,  
Your vassal Godheads grudgingly obey :  
Fierce in the majesty of pow'r, controls ;  
Shakes all the thrones of heav'n, and bends the poles.  
Submit immortals ! all he wills obey ; 120  
And thou, great Mars, begin and shew the way.  
Behold Ascalaphus ! behold him die,  
But dare not murmur, dare not vent a sigh ;  
Thy own lov'd boasted offspring lies o'erthrown,  
If that lov'd boasted offspring be thy own. 125

Stern Mars, with anguish for his slaughter'd son,  
Smote his rebelling breast, and fierce begun :  
Thus then, Immortals ! thus shall Mars obey ;  
Forgive me, Gods, and yield my vengeance way :  
Descending first to yon forbidden plain, 130  
The God of battles dares avenge the slain ;  
Dares, tho' the thunder bursting o'er my head  
Should hurl me blazing on those heaps of dead.

With



With that he gives command to Fear and Flight  
To join his rapid courfers for the fight : 135

Then grim in arms, with hasty vengeance flies ;  
Arms, that reflect a radiance thro' the skies.

And now had Jove, by bold rebellion driv'n,  
Discharg'd his wrath on half the host of heav'n ;  
But Pallas springing thro' the bright abode, 140  
Starts from her azure throne to calm the God.

Struck for th' immortal race with timely fear,  
From frantic Mars she snatch'd the shield and spear ;  
Then the huge helmet lifting from his head,  
Thus to th' impetuous homicide she said : 145

By what wild passion, furious ! art thou tost ?  
Striv'st thou with Jove ? thou art already lost.  
Shall not the Thund'rer's dread command restrain,  
And was imperial Juno heard in vain ?  
Back to the skies wouldst thou with shame be driv'n, 150  
And in thy guilt involve the host of heav'n ?

Ilion and Greece no more should Jove engage ;  
The skies would yield an ampler scene of rage,  
Guilty and guiltless find an equal fate,  
And one vast ruin whelm th' Olympian state. 155  
Cease then thy offspring's death unjust to call ;  
Heroes as great have dy'd, and yet shall fall.

Why should heav'n's law with foolish man comply,  
Exempted from the race, ordain'd to die ?

This menace fix'd the warrior to his throne ; 160  
Sullen he sat, and curb'd the rising groan.

Then Juno call'd (Jove's orders to obey)  
The winged Iris, and the God of day.  
Go wait the Thund'rer's will, Saturnia cry'd),  
On yon tall summit of the fountful Ide : 165

There in the father's awful presence stand,  
Receive and execute his dread command.

She said, and sat : the God that gilds the day,  
And various Iris, wing their airy way.

Swift as the wind, to Ida's hills they came, 170  
(Fair nurse of fountains, and of savage game).

There sat th' Eternal ; he, whose nod controls  
The trembling world, and shades the steady poles.

Veil'd in a mist of fragrance him they found,  
With clouds of gold and purple circled round. 175

Well-



Well-pleas'd the Thund'rer saw their earnest care,  
And prompt obedience to the queen of air;  
Then (while a smile serenest his awful brow)  
Commands the goddess of the show'ry bow:

Iris! descend, and what we here ordain  
Report to yon mad tyrant of the main;  
Bid him from fight to his own deeps repair,  
Or breathe from slaughter in the fields of air.

If he refuse, then let him timely weigh  
Our elder birthright, and superior sway. 185  
How shall his rashness stand the dire alarms,  
If heav'n's omnipotence descend in arms?  
Strives he with me, by whom his pow'r was given,  
And is there equal to the Lord of heav'n?

Th' Almighty spoke; the Goddess wing'd her flight  
To sacred Ilion from th' Idæan height. 191  
Swift as the rattling hail or fleecy snows  
Drive thro' the skies, when Boreas fiercely blows;  
So from the clouds descending Iris falls;  
And to blue Neptune thus the Goddess calls: 195

Attend the mandate of the Sire above,  
In me behold the messenger of Jove:  
He bids thee from forbidden wars repair  
To thy own deeps, or to the fields of air.  
This, if refus'd, he bids thee timely weigh 200  
His elder birthright, and superior sway.  
How shall thy rashness stand the dire alarms,  
If heav'n's omnipotence descend in arms?  
Striv'st thou with him, by whom all pow'r is given?  
And art thou equal to the Lord of heav'n? 205

What means the haughty sov'reign of the skies?  
(The king of ocean thus, incens'd, replies).  
Rule as he will his portion'd realms on high;  
No vassal God, nor of his train am I,  
Three brother deities from Saturn came, 210  
And ancient Rhea, earth's immortal dame:  
Assign'd by lot, our triple rule we know;  
Infernal Pluto sways the shades below;  
O'er the wide clouds, and o'er the starry plain,  
Æthereal Jove extends his high domain: 215  
My court beneath the hoary waves I keep,  
And hush the roarings of the sacred deep:



Olympus and this earth in common lie ;  
 What claim has here the tyrant of the sky ?  
 Far in the distant clouds let him control, 220  
 And awe the younger brothers of the pole ;  
 There to his children his commands be giv'n,  
 The trembling, fervile, second race of heav'n.

And must I then, (said she), O fire of floods !  
 Bear this fierce answer to the king of Gods ? 225  
 Correct it yet, and change thy rash intent ;  
 A noble mind disdains not to repent :  
 To elder brothers guardian fiends are giv'n,  
 To scourge the wretch insulting them and heav'n.

Great is the profit (thus the God rejoins) 230  
 When ministers are blest'd with prudent minds :  
 Warn'd by thy words, to pow'rful Jove I yield,  
 And quit, though angry, the contended field.  
 Not but his threats with justice I disclaim,  
 The same our honours, and our birth the same. 235  
 If yet, forgetful of his promise giv'n  
 To Hermes, Pallas, and the queen of heav'n ;  
 To favour Ilion, that perfidious place,  
 He breaks his faith with half th' æthereal race ;  
 Give him to know, unless the Grecian train 240  
 Lay yon proud structures level with the plain,  
 Howe'er th' offence by other Gods be past,  
 The wrath of Neptune shall for ever last.

Thus speaking, furious from the field he strode,  
 And plung'd into the bosom of the flood. 245  
 The Lord of thunders from his lofty height  
 Beheld, and thus bespoke the source of light :

Behold ! the God whose liquid arms are hurl'd  
 Around the globe, whose earthquakes roke the world,  
 Desists at length his rebel-war to wage, 250  
 Seeks his own seas, and trembles at our rage ;  
 Else had my wrath, heav'n's thrones all shaking round,  
 Burn'd to the bottom of the seas profound ;  
 And all the Gods that round old Saturn dwell,  
 Had heard the thunders to the deeps of hell. 255  
 Well was the crime, and well the vengeance spar'd ;  
 Ev'n pow'r immense had found such battle hard.  
 Go thou, my son ! the trembling Greeks alarm,  
 Shake my broad ægis on thy active arm,

Be



Be godlike Hector thy peculiar care, 260  
 Swell his bold heart, and urge his strength to war:  
 Let Ilion conquer till th' Achaian train  
 Fly to their ships and Hellespont again:  
 Then Greece shall breathe from toils—The Godhead said;  
 His will divine the son of Jove obey'd. 265

Not half so swift the failing falcon flies,  
 That drives a turtle thro' the liquid skies;  
 As Phœbus shooting from th' Idæan brow,  
 Glides down the mountain to the plain below.  
 There Hector seated by the stream he sees, 270  
 His sense returning with the coming breeze;  
 Again, his pulses beat, his spirits rise;  
 Again his lov'd companions meet his eyes;  
 Jove thinking of his pains, they pass'd away.

To whom the God who gives the golden day: 275  
 Why sits great Hector from the field so far?  
 What grief, what wound, with-holds thee from the war?

The fainting hero, as the vision bright  
 Stood shining o'er him, half unseal'd his sight:  
 What bless'd immortal, with commanding breath, 280  
 Thus wakens Hector from the sleep of death?  
 Has fame not told, how, while my trusty sword  
 Bath'd Greece in slaughter, and her battle gor'd,  
 The mighty Ajax with a deadly blow  
 Had almost sunk me to the shades below? 285  
 Ev'n yet, methinks, the gliding ghosts I spy,  
 And hell's black horrors swim before my eye.

To him Apollo: Be no more dismay'd;  
 See, and be strong! the Thund'rer sends thee aid.  
 Behold! thy Phœbus shall his arms employ, 290  
 Phœbus, propitious still to thee and Troy.  
 Inspire thy warriors then with manly force,  
 And to thy ships impel thy rapid horse:  
 Ev'n I will make thy fiery couriers way,  
 And drive the Grecians headlong to the sea. 295

Thus to bold Hector spoke the son of Jove,  
 And breath'd immortal ardour from above.  
 As when the pamper'd steed, with reins unbound,  
 Breaks from his stall, and pours along the ground;  
 With ample strokes he rushes to the flood, 300  
 To bathe his sides, and cool his fiery blood;

His



His head now freed, he tosses to the skies ;  
 His mane dishevel'd o'er his shoulders flies :  
 He snuffs the females in the well-known plain,  
 And springs, exulting, to his fields again : 305

Urg'd by the voice divine, thus Hector flew,  
 Full of the God ; and all his hosts pursue.  
 As when the force of men and dogs combin'd  
 Invade the mountain-goat, or branching hind ;  
 Far from the hunter's rage secure they lie 310  
 Close in the rock, (not fated yet to die),  
 When lo ! a lion shoots across the way !

They fly ; at once the chacers and the prey.  
 So Greece, that late in conqu'ring troops pursu'd,  
 And mark'd their progress thro' the ranks in blood, 315  
 Soon as they see the furious chief appear,  
 Forget to vanquish, and consent to fear.

Thoas with grief observ'd his dreadful course,  
 Thoas, the bravest of th' Ætolian force ;  
 Skill'd to direct the jav'lin's distant flight, 320  
 And bold to combat in the standing fight,  
 Nor more in councils fam'd for solid sense,  
 Than winning words and heav'nly eloquence.

Gods ! what portent (he cry'd) these eyes invades ?  
 Lo ! Hector rises from the Stygian shades ! 325

We saw him late by thund'ring Ajax kill'd :  
 What God restores him to the frighted field ;  
 And not content that half of Greece lie slain,  
 Pours new destruction on her sons again ?

He comes not, Jove ! without thy pow'rful will ; 330  
 Lo ! still he lives, pursues, and conquers still !

Yet hear my counsel, and his worst withstand,  
 The Greeks main body to the fleet command ;  
 But let the few whom brisker spirits warm,  
 Stand the first onset, and provoke the storm. 335

Thus point your arms ; and when such foes appear,  
 Fierce as he is, let Hector learn to fear.

The warrior spoke, the list'ning Greeks obey,  
 Thick'ning their ranks, and form a deep array,  
 Each Ajax, Teucer, Merion, gave command, 340  
 The valiant leader of the Cretan band,  
 And Mars-like Meges : these the chiefs excite,  
 Approach the foe, and meet the coming fight.



Behind, unnumber'd multitudes attend,  
To flank the navy, and the shores defend. 345  
Full on the front the pressing Trojans bear,  
And Hector first came tow'ring to the war.  
Phœbus himself the rushing battle led;  
A veil of clouds involve his radiant head:  
High-held before him, Jove's enormous shield 350  
Portentous shone, and shaded all the field;  
Vulcan to Jove th' immortal gift consign'd,  
To scatter hosts, and terrify mankind.  
The Greeks expect the shock; the clamours rise  
From diff'rent parts, and mingle in the skies. 355  
Dire was the hiss of darts, by heroes flung,  
And arrows leaping from the bow-string sung;  
These drink the life of gen'rous warriors slain;  
Those guiltless fall, and thirst for blood in vain.  
As long as Phœbus bore unmov'd the shield, 360  
Sat doubtful conquest hov'ring o'er the field;  
But when aloft he shakes it in the skies,  
Shouts in their ears, and lightens in their eyes,  
Deep horror seizes ev'ry Grecian breast,  
Their force is humbled, and their fear confest. 365  
So flies a herd of oxen, scatter'd wide,  
No swain to guard them, and no day to guide,  
When two fell lions from the mountain come,  
And spread the carnage through the shady gloom.  
Impending Phœbus pours around them fear, 370  
Aud Troy and Hector thunder in the rear.  
Heaps fall on heaps: the slaughter Hector leads;  
First great Arcefilas, then Stichius bleeds;  
One to the bold Bœotians ever dear,  
And one Menestheus' friend, and fam'd compeer. 375  
Medon and Iäsus, Æneas sped;  
This sprung from Phelus, and th' Athenians led;  
But hapless Medon from Oileus came;  
Him Ajax honour'd with a brother's name,  
Though born of lawless love: from home expell'd, 380  
A banish'd man, in Phylacè he dwell'd.  
Press'd by the vengeance of an angry wife;  
Troy ends, at last, his labours and his life.  
Mecystes next, Polydamas o'erthrew;  
And thee, brave Clonius! great Agenor slew. 385



By Paris, Deiochus inglorious dies,  
 Pierc'd through the shoulder as he basely flies.  
 Polites' arm laid Echius on the plain;  
 Stretch'd on one heap, the victors spoil the slain.  
 The Greeks dismay'd, confus'd, disperse or fall, 390  
 Some seek the trench, some sculk behind the wall.  
 While these fly trembling, others pant for breath,  
 And o'er the slaughter stalks gigantic Death.

On rush'd bold Hector, gloomy as the night;  
 Forbids to plunder, animates the fight, 495  
 Points to the fleet: for by the Gods, who flies,  
 Who dares but linger, by this hand he dies;  
 No weeping sister his cold eye shall close,  
 No friendly hand his fun'ral pyre compose.  
 Who stops to plunder at this signal hour, 400  
 The birds shall tear him, and the dogs devour.

Furious he said; the smarting scourge resounds;  
 The coursers fly; the smoking chariot bounds:  
 The hosts rush on; loud clamours shake the shore;  
 The horses thunder, earth and ocean roar! 405  
 Apollo, planted at the trench's bound,  
 Push'd at the bank: down sunk th' enormous mound;  
 Roll'd in the ditch the heapy ruin lay;  
 A sudden road! a long and ample way.  
 O'er the dread fosse (a late impervious space) 410  
 Now steeds, and men, and cars, tumultuous pass.  
 The wond'ring crouds the downward level trod:  
 Before them flam'd the shield, and march'd the God.  
 Then with his hand he shook the mighty wall;  
 And lo! the turrets nod, the bulwarks fall. 415  
 Easy, as when ashore an infant stands,  
 And draws imagin'd houses in the sands;  
 The sportive wanton, pleas'd with some new play,  
 Sweeps the slight works and fashion'd domes away.  
 Thus vanish'd, at thy touch, the tow'rs and walls; 420  
 The toil of thousands in a moment falls.

The Grecians gaze around with wild despair,  
 Confus'd, and weary all the pow'rs with pray'r;  
 Exhort their men, with praises, threats, commands;  
 And urge the Gods, with voices, eyes and hands. 425  
 Experienc'd Nestor chief obtests the skies,  
 And weeps his country with a father's eyes.

O Jove!



O Jove ! if ever, on his native shore,  
 One Greek enrich'd thy shrine with offer'd gore ;  
 If e'er, in hope our country to behold, 430  
 We paid the fattest firstlings of the fold ;  
 If e'er thou sign'ft our wishes with thy nod,  
 Perform the promise of a gracious God !  
 This day, preserve our navies from the flame,  
 And save the relics of the Grecian name. 435

Thus pray'd the sage: th' Eternal gave consent,  
 And peals of thunder shook the firmament,  
 Presumptuous Troy mistook th' accepting sign,  
 And catch'd new fury at the voice divine.  
 As, when black tempests mix the seas and skies, 440  
 The roaring deeps in wat'ry mountains rise,  
 Above the sides of some tall ship ascend,  
 Its womb they deluge, and its ribs they rend :  
 Thus loudly roaring, and o'erpow'ring all,  
 Mount the thick Trojans up the Grecian wall ; 445  
 Legions on legions from each side arise:  
 Thick found the keels ; the storm of arrows flies.  
 Fierce on the ships above, the cars below,  
 These wield the mace, and those the jav'lin throw.

While thus the thunder of the battle rag'd, 450  
 And lab'ring armies round the works engag'd ;  
 Still in the tent Patroclus sat, to tend  
 The good Eurypylus, his wounded friend.  
 He sprinkles healing balms, to anguish kind,  
 And adds discourse, the med'cine of the mind. 455  
 But when he saw, ascending up the fleet,  
 Victorious Troy ; then, starting from his seat,  
 With bitter groans his sorrows he exprest,  
 He wrings his hands, he beats his manly breast.  
 Though yet thy state requires redress, (he cries), 460  
 Depart I must : what horrors strike my eyes ?  
 Charg'd with Achilles' high commands I go,  
 A mournful witness of this scene of woe :  
 I haste to urge him, by his country's care,  
 To rise in arms, and shine again in war, 465  
 Perhaps some fav'ring God his soul may bend ;  
 The voice is pow'rful of a faithful friend.

He spoke ; and speaking, swifter than the wind  
 Sprung from the tent, and left the war behind.



Th' embody'd Greeks the fierce attack sustain, 470  
 But strive, though num'rous, to repulse in vain.  
 Nor could the Trojans, through that firm array,  
 Force to the fleet and tents th' impervious way.

As when a shipwright, with Palladian art,  
 Smooths the rough wood, and levels ev'ry part; 475  
 With equal hand he guides his whole design,

By the just rule, and the directing line  
 The martial leaders, with like skill and care,  
 Preserv'd their line, and equal kept the war.  
 Brave deeds of arms through all the ranks were try'd,  
 And ev'ry ship sustain'd an equal tide. 481

At one proud bark, high-tow'ring o'er the fleet  
 Ajax the great, and godlike Hector meet;  
 For one bright prize the matchless chiefs contend;  
 Nor this the ships can fire, nor that defend; 485

One kept the shore, and one the vessel trod;  
 That fix'd as fate, this acted by a God.

The son of Clytius in his daring hand,  
 The deck approaching, shakes a flaming brand;  
 But pierc'd by Telamon's huge lance expires; 490  
 Thund'ring he falls, and drops th' extinguish'd fires.

Great Hector view'd him with a sad survey,  
 As stretch'd in dust before the stern he lay.

Oh! all of Trojan, all of Lycian race!  
 Stand to your arms, maintain this arduous space: 495

Lo! where the son of royal Clytius lies;  
 Ah save his arms, secure his obsequies!

This said, his eager jav'lin sought the foe:  
 But Ajax shunn'd the meditated blow,  
 Not vainly yet the forceful lance was thrown; 500  
 It stretch'd in dust unhappy Lycophron:

An exile long, sustain'd at Ajax board,  
 A faithful servant to a foreign lord;  
 In peace, in war, for ever at his side,  
 Near his lov'd master, as he liv'd, he dy'd. 505

From the high poop he tumbles on the sand,  
 And lies a lifeless load along the land.

With anguish Ajax views the piercing sight,  
 And thus inflames his brother to the fight:

Teucer, behold! extended on the shore 410  
 Our friend, our lov'd companion! now no more!

Dear



Dear as a parent, with a parent's care  
To fight our wars, he left his native air,  
This death deplor'd to Hector's rage we owe;  
Revenge, revenge it on the cruel foe. 515

Where are those darts on which the fates attend,  
And where the bow which Phœbus taught to bend?

Impatient Teucer, hast'ning to his aid,  
Before the chief his ample bow display'd;  
The well-stor'd quiver on his shoulders hung: 520

Then hiss'd his arrow, and the bow-string sung.  
Clytus, Pisenor's son, renown'd in fame,  
(To thee, Polydamas! an honour'd name),  
Drove thro' the thickest of th' embattled plains,  
The startling steeds, and shook his eager reins. 525

As all on glory ran his ardent mind,  
The pointed death arrests him from behind:  
Thro' his fair neck the thrilling arrow flies;  
In youth's first bloom reluctantly he dies.  
Hurl'd from the lofty seat, at distance far, 530

The headlong couriers spurn his empty car;  
Till sad Polydamas the steeds restrain'd,  
And gave, Astynous, to thy careful hand;  
Then, fir'd to vengeance, rush'd amidst the foe.  
Rage edg'd his sword, and strengthen'd every blow. 535

Once more bold Teucer, in his country's cause,  
At Hector's breast a chosen arrow draws;  
And had the weapon found the destin'd way,  
Thy fall, great Trojan! had renown'd that day.  
But Hector was not doom'd to perish then: 540

Th' all-wise disposer of the fates of men,  
Imperial Jove, his present death withstands;  
Nor was such glory due to Teucer's hands.  
At its full stretch as the tough string he drew,  
Struck by an arm unseen, it burst in two; 545

Down dropt the bow: the shaft with brazen head  
Fell innocent, and on the dust lay dead.  
Th' astonish'd archer to great Ajax cries;  
Some God prevents our destin'd enterprise:  
Some God, propitious to the Trojan foe, 550

Has, from my arm unfailing, struck the bow,  
And broke the nerve my hands had twin'd with art,  
Strong to impel the flight of many a dart.



Since heav'n commands it, (Ajax made reply),  
 Dismiss the bow, and lay thy arrows by ; 555  
 Thy arms no less suffice thy lance to wield,  
 And quit the quiver for the pond'rous shield.  
 In the first ranks indulge thy thirst of fame,  
 (Thy brave example shall the rest inflame.)  
 Fierce as they are, by long successes vain ; 560  
 To force our fleet, or ev'n a ship to gain,  
 Asks toil, and sweat, and blood : their utmost might  
 Shall find its match—No more : 'tis ours to fight.

Then Teucer laid his faithless bow aside ;  
 The fourfold buckler o'er his shoulder ty'd ; 565  
 On his brave head a crested helm he plac'd,  
 With nodding horse-hair formidably grac'd ;  
 A dart, whose point with brass refulgent shines,  
 The warrior wields ; and his great brother joins.

This Hector saw, and thus express'd his joy : 570  
 Ye troops of Lycia, Dardanus, and Troy !  
 Be mindful of yourselves, your ancient fame,  
 And spread your glory with the navy's flame.  
 Jove is with us ; I saw his hand, but now,  
 From the proud archer strike his vaunted bow. 575  
 Indulgent Jove ! how plain thy favours shine,  
 When happy nations bear the marks divine !  
 How easy then, to see the sinking state  
 Of realms accurs'd, deserted, reprobate !  
 Such is the fate of Greece, and such is ours : 580  
 Behold, ye warriors, and exert your pow'rs.  
 Death is the worst ; a fate which all must try ;  
 And, for our country, 'tis a bliss to die.  
 The gallant man, tho' slain in fight he be,  
 Yet leaves his nation safe, his children free ; 585  
 Entails a debt on all the grateful state ;  
 His own brave friends shall glory in his fate ;  
 His wife live honour'd, all his race succeed ;  
 And late posterity enjoy the deed !

This rous'd the soul in every Trojan breast : 590  
 The godlike Ajax next his Greeks address :

How long, ye warriors of the Argive race,  
 (To gen'rous Argos what a dire disgrace !)  
 How long on these curs'd confines will ye lie,  
 Yet undetermin'd, or to live, or die ! 595  
 What



What hopes remain, what methods to retire,  
If once your vessels catch the Trojan fire?  
Mark how the flames approach, how near they fall,  
How Hector calls, and Troy obeys his call!  
Not to the dance that dreadful voice invites, 600  
It calls to death, and all the rage of fights.

'Tis now no time for wisdom or debates;  
To your own hands are trusted all your fates;  
And better far in one decisive strife,  
One day should end our labour, or our life; 605  
Than keep this hard-got inch of barren sands,  
Still press'd and press'd by such inglorious hands.

The list'ning Grecians feel their leader's flame,  
And ev'ry kindling bosom pants for fame,  
Then mutual slaughters spread on either side; 610  
By Hector here the Phocian Schedius dy'd,  
There pierc'd by Ajax, sunk Laodomas,  
Chief of the foot, of old Antenor's race.

Polydamas laid Otus on the sand,  
The fierce commander of th' Epean band. 615  
His lance bold Meges at the victor threw;  
The victor stooping, from the death withdrew;  
(That valu'd life, O Phoebus! was thy care);  
But Cræsmus' bosom took the flying spear:  
His corpse fell bleeding on the slipp'ry shore; 620  
His radiant arms triumphant Meges bore.

Dolops, the son of Lampus, rushes on,  
Sprung from the race of old Laomedon,  
And fam'd for prowess in a well-fought field;  
He pierc'd the centre of his sounding shield: 625  
But Meges, Phyleus' ample breast-plate wore,  
(Well known in fight on Selles' winding shore;  
For king Euphetes gave the golden mail,  
Compact, and firm with many a jointed scale),  
Which oft, in cities storm'd, and battles won, 630  
Had sav'd the father, and now saves the son.

Full at the Trojan's head he urg'd his lance,  
Where the high plumes above the helmet dance,  
New ting'd with Tyrian dye: in dust below  
Shorn from the crest, the purple honours glow. 635  
Mean-time their fight the Spartan king survey'd,  
And stood by Meges' side, a sudden aid,

Through



Through Dolops' shoulder urg'd his forceful dart,  
Which held its passage through the panting heart,  
And issu'd at his breast. With thund'ring sound 640  
The warrior falls, extended on the ground.

In rush the conqu'ring Greeks to spoil the slain:  
But Hector's voice excites his kindred train;  
The hero most, from Hicetaon sprung,  
Fierce Melanippus, gallant, brave, and young. 645

He (ere to Troy the Grecians cross'd the main)  
Fed his large oxen on Percotè's plain;  
But when, oppress'd, his country claim'd his care,  
Return'd to Ilion, and excell'd in war:  
For this, in Priam's court, he held his place, 540  
Belov'd no less than Priam's royal race.

Him Hector singled, as his troops he led,  
And thus inflam'd him, pointing to the dead:

Lo, Melanippus! lo, where Dolops lies;  
And is it thus our royal kinsman dies? 655

O'ermatch'd he falls; to two at once a prey,  
And, lo! they bear the bloody arms away!  
Come on——a distant war no longer wage,  
But hand to hand thy country's foes engage:  
Till Greece at once, and all her glory end; 660  
Or Ilion from her tow'ry height descend,  
Heav'd from the lowest stone; and bury all  
In one sad sepulchre, one common fall.

Hector (this said) rush'd forward on the foes:  
With equal ardour Melanippus glows: 665

Then Ajax thus——Oh Greeks! respect your fame,  
Respect yourselves, and learn an honest shame:

Let mutual rev'rence mutual warmth inspire,  
And catch from breast to breast the noble fire.

On valour's side the odds of combat lie, 670  
The brave live glorious, or lamented die;

The wretch that trembles in the field of fame!  
Meets death, and worse than death, eternal shame.

His gen'rous sense he not in vain imparts;  
It sunk, and rooted in the Grecian hearts; 675

They join, they throng, they thicken at his call,  
And flank the navy with a brazen wall;

Shields touching shields, in order blaze above,  
And stop the Trojans, though impell'd by Jove.



The fiery Spartan first, with loud applause, 680  
Warms the bold son of Nestor in his cause:  
Is there (he said) in arms a youth like you,  
So strong to fight, so active to pursue?

Why stand you distant, nor attempt a deed?  
Lift the bold lance, and make some Trojan bleed. 684

He said; and backward to the lines retir'd;  
Forth rush'd the youth, with martial fury fir'd,  
Beyond the foremost ranks; his lance he threw,  
And round the black battalions cast his view,  
The troops of Troy recede with sudden fear, 690  
While the swift jav'lin hiss'd along in air.

Advancing Melanippus met the dart  
With his bold breast, and felt it in his heart:  
Thund'ring he falls; his falling arms resound,  
And his broad buckler rings against the ground, 695  
The victor leaps upon his prostrate prize;

Thus on a roe the well-breath'd beagle flies,  
And rends his side, fresh-bleeding with the dart  
The distant hunter sent into his heart.  
Observing-Hector to the rescue flew, 700  
Bold as he was, Antilochus withdrew.

So when a savage, ranging o'er the plain,  
Has torn the shepherd's dog, or shepherd swain;  
While conscious of the deed, he glares around,  
And hears the gath'ring multitude resound, 705  
Timely he flies the yet-untasted food,

And gains the friendly shelter of the wood.  
So fears the youth; all Troy with shouts pursue,  
While stones and darts in mingled tempest flew;  
But enter'd in the Grecian ranks, he turns 710  
His manly breast, and with new fury burns.

Now on the fleet the tides of Trojans drove,  
Fierce to fulfil the stern decrees of Jove:  
The fire of Gods, confirming Thetis' pray'r,  
The Grecian ardour quench'd in deep despair; 715  
But lifts to glory Troy's prevailing bands,

Swells all their hearts, and strengthens all their hands.

On Ida's top he waits with longing eyes,  
To view the navy blazing to the skies;  
Then, nor till then, the scale of war shall turn, 720  
The Trojans fly, and conquer'd Ilion burn.

These



These fates revolv'd in his almighty mind,  
 He raises Hector to the work design'd,  
 Bids him with more than mortal fury glow,  
 And drives him, like a lightning, on the foe. 725

So Mars, when human crimes for vengeance call,  
 Shakes his huge jav'lin, and whole armies fall.  
 Not with more rage a conflagration rolls,  
 Wraps the vast mountains, and involves the poles.  
 He foams with wrath; beneath his gloomy brow 730

Like fiery meteors his red eye-balls glow;  
 The radiant helmet on his temples burns,  
 Waves when he nods, and lightens as he turns:  
 For Jove his splendour round the chief had thrown,  
 And cast the blaze of both the hosts on one. 735

Unhappy glories! for his fate was near,  
 Due to stern Pallas, and Pelides' spear:  
 Yet Jove deferr'd the death he was to pay,  
 And gave what fate allow'd, the honours of a day!

Now all on fire for fame, his breast, his eyes 740

Burn at each foe, and single ev'ry prize;  
 Still at the closest ranks, the thickest fight,  
 He points his ardour, and exerts his might.  
 The Grecian phalanx, moveless as a tow'r,  
 On all sides batter'd, yet resists his pow'r: 745

So some tall rock o'erhangs the hoary main,  
 By winds assail'd, by billows beat in vain,  
 Unmov'd it hears, above, the tempest blow,  
 And sees the wat'ry mountains break below.

Girt in surrounding flames, he seems to fall 750

Like fire from Jove, and bursts upon them all:  
 Bursts as a wave that from the clouds impends,  
 And swell'd with tempests, on the ship descends;  
 White are the decks with foam; the winds aloud  
 Howl o'er the masts, and sing through ev'ry shroud: 755

Pale, trembling, tir'd, the sailors freeze with fears;

And instant death on ev'ry wave appears.

So pale the Greeks the eyes of Hector meet,

The chief so thunders, and so shakes the fleet.

As when a lion, rushing from his den, 760

Amidst the plain of some wide-water'd fen,

(Where num'rous oxen, as at ease they feed,

At large expatiate o'er the ranker mead);

Leaps



Leaps on the herds before the herdsman's eyes ;  
 The trembling herdsman far to distance flies : 765  
 Some lordly bull (the rest dispers'd and fled)  
 He singles out ; arrests, and lays him dead.  
 Thus from the rage of Jove-like Hector flew  
 All Greece in heaps ; but one he seiz'd, and flew ;  
 Mycenian Periphes, a mighty name, 770  
 In wisdom great, in arms well known to fame ;  
 The minister of stern Eurystheus' ire,  
 Against Alcides, Copreus was his fire :  
 The son redeem'd the honours of the race,  
 A son as gen'rous as his son was base ; 775  
 O'er all his country's youth conspicuous far  
 In ev'ry virtue, or of peace or war :  
 But doom'd to Hector's stronger force to yield !  
 Against the margin of his ample shield  
 He struck his hasty foot : his heels up-sprung ; 780  
 Supine he fell ; his brazen helmet rung.  
 On the fall'n chief th' invading Trojan prest,  
 And plung'd the pointed jav'lin in his breast.  
 His circling friends, who strove to guard too late  
 Th' unhappy hero, fled, or shar'd his fate. 785

Chac'd from the foremost line the Grecian train  
 Now man the next, receding tow'rd the main :  
 Wedg'd in one body at the tents they stand,  
 Wail'd round with sterns, a gloomy desp'rate band.  
 Now manly shame forbids th' inglorious flight ; 790  
 Now fear itself confines them to the fight :  
 Man courage breathes in man ; but Nestor most  
 (The sage preserver of the Grecian host)  
 Exhorts, adjures, to guard these utmost shores ;  
 And by their parents, by themselves, implores : 795

O friends ! be men ; your gen'rous breasts inflame  
 With mutual honour, and with mutual shame !  
 Think of your hopes, your fortunes ; all the care  
 Your wives, your infants, and your parents share :  
 Think of each living father's rev'rend head : 800  
 Think of each ancestor with glory dead ;  
 Absent, by me they speak, by me they sue ;  
 They ask their safety, and their fame, from you :  
 The Gods their fates on this one action lay,  
 And all are lost, if you desert the day. 805

He



He spoke, and round him breath'd heroic fires ;  
 Minerva seconds what the sage inspires.  
 The mist of darkness Jove around them threw  
 She clear'd, restoring all the war to view ;  
 A sudden ray shot beaming o'er the plain, 810  
 And shew'd the shores, the navy, and the main :  
 Hector they saw, and all who fly or fight,  
 The scene wide opening to the blaze of light.  
 First of the field great Ajax strikes their eyes,  
 His port majestic, and his ample size : 815  
 A pond'rous mace with studs of iron crown'd,  
 Full twenty cubits long he swings around :  
 Nor fights like others fix'd to certain stands,  
 But looks a moving tow'r above the bands ;  
 High on the decks, with vast gigantic stride, 820  
 The godlike hero stalks from side to side.  
 So when a horseman from the wat'ry mead  
 (Skill'd in the manage of the bounding steed)  
 Drives four fair coursers, practis'd to obey,  
 To some great city thro' the public way ; 825  
 Safe in his art, as side by side they run,  
 He shifts his seat, and vaults from one to one ;  
 And now to this, and now to that he flies ;  
 Admiring numbers follow with their eyes.  
 From ship to ship thus Ajax swiftly flew, 830  
 No less the wonder of the warring crew.  
 As furious Hector thunder'd threats aloud,  
 And rush'd enrag'd before the Trojan croud :  
 Then swift invades the ships, whose beaky prores  
 Lay rank'd contiguous on the bending shores : 835  
 So the strong eagle from his airy height,  
 Who marks the swans' or cranes' embody'd flight,  
 Stoops down impetuous, while they light for food,  
 And stooping, darkens with his wings the flood.  
 Jove leads him on with his almighty hand, 840  
 And breathes fierce spirits in his following band.  
 The warring nations meet, the battle roars,  
 Thick beats the combat on the founding prores.  
 Thou would have thought, so furious was their fire,  
 No force could tame them, and no toil could tire ; 845  
 As if new vigour from new fights they won,  
 And the long battle was but then begun.



Greece yet unconquer'd kept alive the war,  
Secure of death, confiding in despair;  
Troy in proud hopes already view'd the main 850  
Bright with the blaze, and red with heroes slain!  
Like strength is felt from hope, and from despair,  
And each contends, as his were all the war.

'Twas thou, bold Hector! whose resistless hand  
First seiz'd a ship on that contested strand; 855  
The same which dread Protefilaüs bore,  
The first that touch'd th' unhappy Trojan shore:  
For this in arms the warring nations stood,  
And bath'd their gen'rous breasts with mutual blood.  
No room to poize the lance, or bend the bow; 860  
But hand to hand, and man to man they grow:  
Wounded they wound, and seek each other's hearts  
With faulchions, axes, swords, and shorten'd darts.  
The faulchions ring, shields rattle, axes sound,  
Swords flash in air, or glitter on the ground; 865  
With streaming blood the slipp'ry shores are dy'd,  
And slaughter'd heroes swell the dreadful tide.

Still raging Hector with his ample hand  
Grasps the high stern, and gives this loud command.  
Haste, bring the flames! the toil of ten long years  
Is finish'd; and the day desir'd appears! 871

This happy day with acclamations greet,  
Bright with destruction of yon hostile fleet:  
The coward counsels of a tim'rous throng  
Of rev'rend dotards, check'd our glory long: 875  
Too long Jove lull'd us with lethargic charms,  
But now in peals of thunder calls to arms:  
In this great day he crowns our full desires,  
Wakes all our force, and seconds all our fires.

He spoke—the warriors, at his fierce command,  
Pour a new deluge on the Grecian band. 881  
Ev'n Ajax paus'd (so thick the jav'lins fly),  
Stept back, and doubted or to live or die.  
Yet where the oars are plac'd he stands to wait  
What chief approaching dares attempt his fate: 885  
Ev'n to the last his naval charge defends,  
Now shakes his spear, now lifts, and now protends;  
Ev'n yet, the Greeks with piercing shouts inspires,  
Amidst attacks, and deaths, and darts, and fires.



O friends ! O heroes ! names for ever dear, 890  
 Once sons of Mars, and thunderbolts of war !  
 Ah ! yet be mindful of your old renown,  
 Your great forefathers virtues and your own.  
 What aids expect you in this utmost strait ?  
 What bulwarks rising between you and fate ? 895  
 No aids, no bulwarks, your retreat attend,  
 No friends to help, no city to defend.  
 This spot is all you have, to lose or keep ;  
 There stand the Trojans, and here rolls the deep.  
 'Tis hostile ground you tread ; your native lands 900  
 Far, far from hence ; your fates are in your hands.  
 Raging he spoke ; nor farther wastes his breath,  
 But turns his jav'lin to the work of death.  
 Whate'er bold Trojan arm'd his daring hands,  
 Against the sable ships, with flaming brands, 905  
 So well the chief his naval weapon sped,  
 The luckless warrior at his stern lay dead :  
 Full twelve, the boldest, in a moment fell,  
 Sent by great Ajax to the shades of hell.

THE



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K XVI.

### T H E A R G U M E N T.

The sixth battle : the acts and death of Patroclus.

*Patroclus (in pursuance of the request of Nestor in the eleventh book) entreats Achilles to suffer him to go to the assistance of the Greeks with Achilles's troops and armour. He agrees to it, but at the same time charges him to content himself with rescuing the fleet, without farther pursuit of the enemy. The armour, horses, soldiers, and officers of Achilles are described. Achilles offers a libation for the success of his friend, after which Patroclus leads the Myrmidons to battle. The Trojans, at the sight of Patroclus in Achilles's armour, taking him for that hero, are cast into the utmost consternation : he beats them off from the vessels. Hector himself flies, Sarpedon is killed, though Jupiter was averse to his fate. Several other particulars of the battle are described ; in the heat of which, Patroclus, neglecting the orders of Achilles, pursues the foe to the walls of Troy ; where Apollo repulses and disarms him. Euphorbus wounds him, and Hector kills him : which concludes the book.*

**S**O warr'd both armies on th' ensanguin'd shore,  
While the black vessels smok'd with human gore.  
Mean-time Patroclus to Achilles flies ;  
The streaming tears fall copious from his eyes ;  
Not faster, trickling to the plains below, 5  
From the tall rock the fable waters flow.  
Divine Pelides, with compassion mov'd,  
Thus spoke, indulgent to his best belov'd.



Patroclus, say, what grief thy bosom bears,  
 That flows so fast in these unmanly tears ? 10  
 No girl, no infant whom the mother keeps  
 From her lov'd breast, with fonder passion weeps ;  
 Not more the mother's soul that infant warms,  
 Clung to her knees, and reaching at her arms,  
 Than thou hast mine ! Oh tell me, to what end 15  
 Thy melting sorrows thus pursue thy friend !

Griev'st thou for me, or for my martial band ?  
 Or come sad tidings from our native land ?  
 Our fathers live, (our first most tender care),  
 Thy good Menœtius breathes the vital air, 20  
 And hoary Peleus yet extends his days ;  
 Pleas'd in their age to hear their children's praise.

Or may some meaner cause thy pity claim ?  
 Perhaps yon relics of the Grecian name,  
 Doom'd in their ships to sink by fire and sword, 25  
 And pay the forfeit of their haughty lord ?  
 Whate'er the cause, reveal thy secret care,  
 And speak those sorrows which a friend would share.

A sigh that instant from his bosom broke,  
 Another follow'd, and Patroclus spoke: 30

Let Greece at length with pity touch thy breast,  
 Thyself a Greek ; and, once, of Greeks the best !  
 Lo ! ev'ry chief that might her fate prevent,  
 Lies pierc'd with wounds, and bleeding in his tent.  
 Eurypylus, Tydides, Atreus' son, 35  
 And wise Ulysses, at the navy groan,  
 More for their country's wounds than for their own.  
 Their pain soft arts of pharmacy can ease,  
 Thy breast alone no lenitives appease.

May never rage like thine my soul inflame, 40  
 O great in vain ! unprofitably brave !  
 Thy country slighted in her last distress,  
 What friend, what man from thee shall hope redress ?  
 No——men unborn, and ages yet behind,  
 Shall curse that fierce, that unforgiving mind. 45

O man unpitying ! if of man thy race ;  
 But sure thou spring'st not from a soft embrace,  
 Nor ever am'rous hero caus'd thy birth,  
 Nor ever tender Goddess brought thee forth.

Some



Some rugged rock's hard entrails gave thee form, 50  
 And raging seas produc'd thee in a storm,  
 A soul well-suited that tempestuous kind,  
 So rough thy manners, so untam'd thy mind.

If some dire oracle thy breast alarm,  
 If aught from Jove, or Thetis, stop thy arm, 55  
 Some beam of comfort yet on Greece may shine,  
 If I but lead the Myrmidonian line:

Clad in thy dreadful arms if I appear,  
 Proud Troy shall tremble, and desert the war:  
 Without thy person Greece shall win the day, 60  
 And thy mere image chase her foes away.

Press'd by fresh forces her o'erlabour'd train  
 Shall quit the ships, and Greece respire again.

Thus, blind to fate! with supplicating breath,  
 Thou begg'st his arms, and in his arms thy death. 65  
 Un fortunately good! a boding sigh

Thy friend return'd; and with it, this reply:

Patroclus! thy Achilles knows no fears:  
 Nor words from Jove, nor oracles he hears;  
 Nor aught a mother's caution can suggest; 70  
 The tyrant's pride lies rooted in my breast.

My wrongs, my wrongs, my constant thought engage,  
 Those, my sole oracles, inspire my rage:

I made him tyrant: gave him power to wrong  
 Ev'n me: I felt it; and shall feel it long. 75

The maid, my black-ey'd maid, he forc'd away,  
 Due to the toils of many a well-fought day;  
 Due to my conquest of her father's reign;  
 Due to the votes of all the Grecian train.

From me he forc'd her; me the bold and brave; 80  
 Disgrac'd, dishonour'd, like the meanest slave.

But bear we this—the wrongs I grieve are past!  
 'Tis time our fury should relent at last:

I fix'd its date; the day I wish'd appears:  
 Now Hector to my ships his battle bears, 85

The flames my eyes, the shouts invade my ears.  
 Go then, Patroclus! court fair honour's charms

In Troy's fam'd fields, and in Achilles' arms:  
 Lead forth my martial Myrmidons to fight,

Go save the fleets, and conquer in my sight. 90



See the thin relics of their baffled band,  
 At the last edge of yon deserted land !  
 Behold all Ilion on their ships descends ;  
 How the cloud blackens, how the storm impends !  
 It was not thus, when, at my sight amaz'd, 95  
 Troy saw and trembled, as this helmet blaz'd :  
 Had not th' injurious king our friendship lost,  
 Yon ample trench had bury'd half her host.  
 No camps, no bulwarks now the Trojans fear,  
 Those are not dreadful, no Achilles there : 100  
 No longer flames the lance of Tydeus' son ;  
 No more your gen'ral calls his heroes on :  
 Hector, alone, I hear ; his dreadful breath  
 Commands your slaughter, or proclaims your death.  
 Yet now, Patroclus, issue to the plain ; 105 }  
 Now save the ships, the rising fires restrain,  
 And give the Greeks to visit Greece again. }  
 But heed my words, and mark a friend's command,  
 Who trusts his fame and honours in thy hand,  
 And from thy deeds expects, th' Achaian host 110  
 Shall render back the beauteous maid he lost :  
 Rage uncontroll'd through all the hostile crew,  
 But touch not Hector, Hector is my due.  
 Though Jove in thunder should command the war,  
 Be just, consult my glory, and forbear. 115  
 The fleet once sav'd, desist from farther chace,  
 Nor lead to Ilion's walls the Grecian race ;  
 Some adverse God thy rashness may destroy ;  
 Some God, like Phœbus, ever kind to Troy.  
 Let Greece, redeem'd from this destructive strait, 120  
 Do her own work ; and leave the rest to fate.  
 Oh ! would to all th' immortal pow'rs above,  
 Apollo, Pallas, and almighty Jove !  
 That not one Trojan might be left alive,  
 And not a Greek of all the race survive ; 125  
 Might only we the vast destruction shun,  
 And only we destroy th' accursed town !  
 Such conf'rence held the chiefs ; while, on the strand,  
 Great Jove with conquest crown'd the Trojan band.  
 Ajax no more the sounding storm sustain'd, 130  
 So thick the darts an iron tempest rain'd :  
 On



On his tir'd arm the weighty buckler hung;  
 His hollow helm with falling jav'lin's rung;  
 His breath, in quick, short pantings, comes and goes;  
 And painful sweat from all his members flows. 135  
 Spent and o'erpower'd, he barely breathes at most;  
 Yet scarce an army stirs him from his post:  
 Dangers on dangers all around him grow,  
 And toil to toil, and woe succeeds to woe.

Say, Muses thron'd above the starry frame, 140  
 How first the navy blaz'd with Trojan flame?

Stern Hector wav'd his sword: and standing near  
 Where furious Ajax ply'd his ashen spear,  
 Full on the lance a stroke so justly sped,  
 That the broad faulchion lopp'd its brazen head: 145  
 His pointless spear the warrior shakes in vain;  
 The brazen head falls founding on the plain.  
 Great Ajax saw, and own'd the hand divine,  
 Confessing Jove, and trembling at the sign;  
 Warn'd; he retreats. Then swift from all sides pour 150  
 The hissing brands; thick streams the fiery show'r;  
 O'er the high stern, the curling volumes rise,  
 And sheets of rolling smoke involve the skies.

Divine Achilles view'd the rising flames,  
 And smote his thigh, and thus aloud exclaims: 155  
 Arm, arm, Patroclus! Lo, the blaze aspires!  
 The glowing ocean reddens with the fires.

Arm, ere our vessels catch the spreading flame;  
 Arm, ere the Grecians be no more a name;  
 I haste to bring the troops—The hero said; 160  
 The friend with ardour and with joy obey'd.

He cas'd his limbs in brags; and first around  
 His manly legs, with silver buckles bound  
 The clasping greaves: then to his breast applies  
 The flamy cuirass, of a thousand dyes; 165

Emblaz'd with studs of gold his faulchion shone  
 In the rich belt, as in a starry zone:  
 Achilles' shield his ample shoulders spread,  
 Achilles' helmet nodded o'er his head:

Adorn'd in all his terrible array, 170  
 He flash'd around intolerable day.

Alone, untouch'd, Pelides' jav'lin stands,  
 Not to be pois'd but by Pelides' hands;

From



From Pelion's shady brow the plant entire  
 Old Chiron rent, and shap'd it for his fire; 175  
 Whose son's great arm alone the weapon wields,  
 The death of heroes, and the dread of fields.

Then brave Automedon (an honour'd name,  
 The second to his lord in love and fame,  
 In peace his friend, and partner of the war) 180  
 The winged courfers harness'd to the car;  
 Xanthus and Balius, of immortal breed,  
 Sprung from the wind, and like the wind in speed;  
 Whom the wing'd Harpy, swift Podarge bore,  
 By Zephyr pregnant on the breezy shore: 185  
 Swift Pedasus was added to their side,  
 (Once great Aëtion's, now Achilles' pride),  
 Who, like in strength, in swiftnefs, and in grace,  
 A mortal courser, match'd th' immortal race.

Achilles speeds from tent to tent, and warms 190  
 His hardy Myrmidons to blood and arms,  
 All breathing death, around their chief they stand,  
 A grim, terrific, formidable band:  
 Grim as voracious wolves, that seek the springs,  
 When scalding thirst their burning bowels wrings; 195  
 When some tall stag, fresh slaughter'd in the wood,  
 Has drench'd their wide insatiate throats with blood,  
 To the black fount they rush, a hideous throng,  
 With paunch distended, and with lolling tongue,  
 Fire fills their eye, their black jaws belch the gore, 200  
 And gorg'd with slaughter, still they thirst for more.  
 Like furious rush'd the Myrmidonian crew,  
 Such their dread strength, and such their deathful view.

High in the midst the great Achilles stands,  
 Directs their order, and the war commands. 205  
 He, lov'd of Jove, had launch'd for Ilion's shores  
 Full fifty vessels, mann'd with fifty oars:  
 Five chosen leaders the fierce bands obey,  
 Himself supreme in valour as in sway.

First march'd Menestheus, of celestial birth. 210  
 Deriv'd from thee, whose waters wash the earth,  
 Divine Sperchius! Jove-descended flood!  
 A mortal mother mixing with a God.  
 Such was Menestheus, but miscall'd by fame  
 The son of Borus, that espous'd the dame. 215



Eudorus next ; whom Polymele the gay,  
 Fam'd in the graceful dance, produc'd to day.  
 Her sly Cellenius lov'd, on her would gaze,  
 As with swift step she form'd the running maze :  
 To her high chamber from Diana's quire, 220  
 The God pursu'd her, urg'd, and crown'd his fire.  
 The son confess'd his father's heav'nly race,  
 And heir'd his mother's swiftnefs in the chace.  
 Strong Echeclëus, blest'd in all those charms  
 That pleas'd a God, succeeded to her arms ; 225  
 Not conscious of those loves, long hid from fame,  
 With gifts of price he fought and won the dame :  
 Her secret offspring to her fire she bare ;  
 Her fire caress'd him with a parent's care.

Pisander follow'd ; matchless in his art 230  
 To wing the spear, or aim the distant dart ;  
 No hand so sure of all th' Emathian line,  
 Or if a surer, great Patroclus ! thine.

The fourth by Phœnix' grave command was grac'd ;  
 Laërces' valiant offspring led the last. 235

Soon as Achilles with superior care  
 Had call'd the chiefs, and order'd all the war,  
 This stern remembrance to his troops he gave :  
 Ye far-fam'd Myrmidons, ye fierce and brave !  
 Think with what threats you dar'd the Trojan throng,  
 Think what reproach these ears endur'd so long, 241  
 “ Stern son of Peleus,” (thus ye us'd to say,  
 While restless, raging in your ships you lay),  
 “ Oh nurs'd with gall, unknowing how to yield !  
 “ Whose rage defrauds us of so fam'd a field. 245  
 “ If that dire fury must for ever burn,  
 “ What make we here ? Return, ye chiefs, return !”  
 Such were your words—now, warriors grieve no more.  
 Lo there the Trojans ! bathe your swords in gore !  
 This day shall give you all your soul demands ; 250  
 Glut all your hearts ! and weary all your hands !  
 Thus while he rous'd the fire in ev'ry breast,  
 Close, and more close, the list'ning cohorts preft ;  
 Ranks wedg'd in ranks ; of arms a steely ring  
 Still grows, and spreads, and thickens round the king.  
 As when a circling wall the builder forms 256  
 Of strength defensive against wind and storms,

Compacted



Compacted stones the thick'ning work compose,  
 And round him wide the rising structure grows :  
 So helm to helm, and crest to crest they throng, 260  
 Shield urg'd on shield, and man drove man along ;  
 Thick, undistinguish'd plumes, together join'd,  
 Float in one sea, and wave before the wind,

Far o'er the rest, in glitt'ring pomp appear  
 There bold Eutomedon, Patroclus here ; 265  
 Brothers in arms, with equal fury fir'd ;  
 Two friends, two bodies with one soul inspir'd.

But mindful of the Gods Achilles went  
 To the rich coffer in his shady tent :  
 There lay on heaps his various garment roll'd, 270  
 And costly furs and carpets stiff with gold ;  
 (The presents of the silver-footed dame).

From thence he took a bowl, of antique frame,  
 Which never man had stain'd with ruddy wine,  
 Nor rais'd in off'rings to the pow'rs divine, 275

But Peleus' son ; and Peleus' son to none  
 Had rais'd in off'rings, but to Jove alone,  
 This ting'd with sulphur, sacred first to flame,  
 He purg'd ; and wash'd it in the running stream.  
 Then cleans'd his hands ; and fixing for a space 280  
 His eyes on heav'n, his feet upon the place  
 Of sacrifice, the purple draught he pour'd  
 Forth in the midst ; and thus the God implor'd :

Oh thou supreme ! high-thron'd all height above !  
 Oh great Pelasgic, Dodonæan Jove !  
 Who 'midst surrounding frosts, and vapours chill,  
 Presid'st on bleak Dodona's vocal hill :  
 (Whose groves the Selli, race austere ! surround,  
 Their feet unwash'd, their slumbers on the ground ;  
 Who hear, from rustling oaks, thy dark decrees ; 290  
 And catch the fates low whisper'd in the breeze).

Hear, as of old ! Thou gav'st at Thetis' pray'r,  
 Glory to me, and to the Greeks despair.  
 Lo, to the dangers of the fighting field  
 The best, the dearest of my friends I yield : 295

Tho' still determin'd, to my ships confin'd ;  
 Patroclus gone, I stay but half behind.

Oh ! be his guard thy providential care,  
 Confirm his heart, and string his arm to war :

Pres'd



Press'd by his single force, let Hector see 300  
 His fame in arms not owing all to me,  
 But when the fleets are sav'd from foes and fire,  
 Let him with conquest and renown retire;  
 Preserve his arms, preserve his social train,  
 And safe return him to these eyes again! 305

Great Jove consents to half the chief's request,  
 But heav'n's eternal doom denies the rest;  
 To free the fleet was granted to his pray'r;  
 His safe return, the winds dispers'd in air.  
 Back to his tent the stern Achilles flies, 310  
 And waits the combat with impatient eyes.

Meanwhile the troops beneath Patroclus' care,  
 Invade the Trojans, and commence the war.  
 As wasps, provok'd by children in their play,  
 Pour from their mansions by the broad highway, 315  
 In swarms the guiltless traveller engage,  
 Whet all their stings, and call forth all their rage:  
 All rise in arms, and with a gen'ral cry,  
 Assert their waxen domes, and buzzing progeny.  
 Thus from the tents the fervent legion swarms, 320  
 So loud their clamours, and so keen their arms;  
 Their rising rage Patroclus' breath inspires,  
 Who thus inflames them with heroic fires:

Oh warriors, partners of Achilles' praise!  
 Be mindful of your deeds in ancient days: 325  
 Your godlike master let your acts proclaim,  
 And add new glories to his mighty name.  
 Think, your Achilles sees you fight: be brave,  
 And humble the proud monarch whom you save.

Joyful they heard, and kindling as he spoke, 330  
 Flew to the fleet, involv'd in fire and smoke.  
 From shore to shore the doubling shouts resound,  
 The hollow ships return a deeper sound.  
 The war stood still, and all around them gaz'd,  
 When great Achilles' shining armour blaz'd; 335  
 Troy saw, and thought the dread Achilles nigh,  
 At once they see, they tremble, and they fly.

Then first thy spear, divine Patroclus! flew,  
 Where the war rag'd, and where the tumult grew.  
 Close to the stern of that fam'd ship, which bore 340  
 Unblest'd Protefilaus to Ilion's shore,



The great Pœonian, bold Pyræchmes, stood ;  
 (Who led his bands from Axius' winding flood) ;  
 His shoulder-blade receives the fatal wound ;  
 The groaning warrior pants upon the ground. 345  
 His troops, that see their country's glory slain,  
 Fly diverse, scatter'd o'er the distant plain.  
 Patroclus' arm forbids the spreading fires,  
 And from the half-burnt ship proud Troy retires ;  
 Clear'd from the smoke the joyful navy lies : 350  
 In heaps on heaps the foe tumultuous flies ;  
 Triumphant Greece her rescu'd decks ascends,  
 And loud acclaim the starry region rends.  
 So when thick clouds inwrap the mountain's head,  
 O'er heav'n's expanse like one black ceiling spread ; 355  
 Sudden, the Thund'rer, with a flashing ray,  
 Bursts through the darkness, and lets down the day ;  
 The hills shine out, the rocks in prospect rise,  
 And streams, and vales, and forests strike the eyes ;  
 The smiling scene wide opens to the sight, 360  
 And all th' unmeasur'd æther flames with light.

But Troy repuls'd, and scatter'd o'er the plains,  
 Forc'd from the navy, yet the fight maintains.  
 Now ev'ry Greek some hostile hero slew ;  
 But still the foremost, bold Patroclus flew ; 365  
 As Areilycus had turn'd him round,  
 Sharp in his thigh he felt the piercing wound ;  
 The brazen-pointed spear with vigour thrown,  
 The thigh transfix'd, and broke the brittle bone :  
 Headlong he fell. Next, Thoas, was thy chance, 370  
 Thy breast, unarm'd, receiv'd the Spartan lance.  
 Phylides' dart (as Amphiclus drew nigh)  
 His blow prevented, and transpierc'd his thigh,  
 Tore all the brawn, and rent the nerves away :  
 In darkness, and in death, the warrior lay. 375

In equal arms two sons of Nestor stand,  
 And two bold brothers of the Lycian band :  
 By great Antilochus, Atymnius dies,  
 Pierc'd in his flank, lamented youth ! he lies.  
 Kind Maris, bleeding in his brother's wound, 380  
 Defends the breathless carcase on the ground.  
 Furious he flies, his murd'rer to engage ;  
 But godlike Thrasimed prevents his rage,



Between his arm and shoulder aims a blow;  
His arm falls spouting on the dust below: 385  
He sinks, with endless darkness cover'd o'er;  
And vents his soul effus'd with gushing gore.

Slain by two brothers, thus two brothers bleed,  
Sarpedon's friends, Amisodarus' seed:  
Amisodarus, who, by furies led, 390  
The bane of men, abhorr'd Chimæra bred;  
Skill'd in the dart in vain, his sons expire,  
And pay the forfeit of their guilty fire.

Stopp'd in the tumult Cleobulus lies;  
Beneath Oileus' arm, a living prize; 395  
A living prize not long the Trojan stood;  
The thirsty falchion drank his reeking blood:  
Plung'd in his throat the smoking weapon lies:  
Black death, and fate unpitying, seal his eyes.

Amid the ranks, with mutual thirst of fame, 400  
Lycon the brave, and fierce Peneleus came:  
In vain their jav'lines at each other flew,  
Now, met in arms, their eager swords they drew.  
On the plum'd crest of his Bœotian foe,  
The daring Lycon aim'd a noble blow: 405  
The sword broke short; but his Peneleus sped  
Full on the juncture of the neck and head:  
The head, divided by a stroke so just,  
Hung by the skin: the body sunk to dust.

O'ertaken Neamas by Merion bleeds, 410  
Pierc'd through the shoulder as he mounts his steeds;  
Back from the car he tumbles to the ground:  
His swimming eyes eternal shades surround.

Next Erymas was doom'd his fate to feel,  
His open'd mouth receiv'd the Cretan steel: 415  
Beneath the brain the point a passage tore,  
Crash'd the thin bones, and drown'd the teeth in gore:  
His mouth, his eyes, his nostrils, pour a flood;  
He fobs his soul out in the gush of blood.

As when the flocks neglected by the swain 420  
(Or kids, or lambs) lie scatter'd o'er the plain,  
A troop of wolves th' unguarded charge survey,  
And rend the trembling, unresisting prey:  
Thus on the foe the Greeks impetuous came:  
Troy fled, unmindful of her former fame. 425



But still at Hector godlike Ajax aim'd,  
Still pointed at his breast, his jav'lin flam'd :  
The Trojan chief, experienc'd in the field,  
O'er his broad shoulders spread the massy shield,  
Observ'd the storm of darts the Grecian pour, 430  
And on his buckler caught the ringing show'r.  
He sees for Greece the scale of conquest rise,  
Yet stops, and turns, and saves his lov'd allies.

As when the hand of Jove a tempest forms,  
And rolls the cloud to blacken heav'n with storms, 435  
Dark o'er the fields th' ascending vapour flies,  
And shades the sun, and blots the golden skies :  
So from the ships, along the dusky plain,  
Dire Flight and Terror drove the Trojan train.  
Ev'n Hector fled ; through heaps of disarray 440

The fiery couriers forc'd their lord away :  
While far behind his Trojans fall confus'd ;  
Wedg'd in the trench, in one vast carnage bruis'd :  
Chariots on chariots roll : the clashing spokes  
Shock ; while the madding steeds break short their yokes :  
In vain they labour up the steepy mound ; 446  
Their charioteers lie foaming on the ground.

Fierce on the rear, with shouts, Patroclus flies ;  
Tumultuous clamour fills the fields and skies ;  
Thick drifts of dust involve their rapid flight ; 450  
Clouds rise on clouds, and heav'n is snatch'd from sight.  
Th' affrighted steeds their dying lords cast down,  
Scour o'er the fields, and stretch to reach the town.  
Loud o'er the rout was heard the victor's cry,  
Where the war bleeds, and where the thickest die, 455  
Where horse, and arms, and chariots lie o'erthrown,  
And bleeding heroes under axles groan.

No stop, no check, the steeds of Peleus knew ;  
From bank to bank th' immortal couriers flew,  
High bounding o'er the fosse : the whirling car 460  
Smokes thro' the ranks, o'ertakes the flying war,  
And thunders after Hector ; Hector flies,  
Patroclus shakes his lance ; but fate denies.  
Not with less noise, with less impetuous force,  
The tide of Trojans urge their desp'rate course, 465  
Than when in autumn Jove his fury pours,  
And earth is loaden with incessant show'rs,

(When



(When guilty mortals break th' eternal laws,  
 Or judges brib'd, betray the righteous cause) ;  
 From their deep beds he bids the rivers rise, 470  
 And opens all the flood-gates of the skies ;  
 Th' impetuous torrents from their hills obey,  
 Whole fields are drown'd, and mountains swept away ;  
 Loud roars the deluge till it meets the main ;  
 And trembling man sees all his labours vain. 475

And now the chief (the foremost troops repell'd)  
 Back to the ships his destin'd progress held,  
 Bore down half Troy in his resistless way,  
 And forc'd the routed ranks to stand the day.  
 Between the space where silver Simois flows, 480  
 Where lay the fleets, and where the rampiers rose,  
 All grim in dust and blood, Patroclus stands,  
 And turns the slaughter on the conqu'ring bands.  
 First Pronous dy'd beneath his fiery dart,  
 Which pierc'd below the shield his valiant heart. 485  
 Thestor was next ; who saw the chief appear,  
 And fell the victim of his coward fear ;  
 Shrunk up he sat, with wild and haggard eye,  
 Nor stood to combat, nor had force to fly :  
 Patroclus mark'd him as he shunn'd the war, 490  
 And with unmanly tremblings shook the car,  
 And dropp'd the flowing reins. Him 'twixt the jaws  
 The jav'lin sticks, and from the chariot draws.  
 As on a rock that overhangs the main,  
 An angler, studious of the line and cane, 495  
 Some mighty fish draws panting to the shore ;  
 Not with less ease the barbed jav'lin bore  
 The gaping dastard : as the spear was shook,  
 He fell, and life his heartless breast forsook.

Next on Eryalus he flies ; a stone 500  
 Large as a rock, was by his fury thrown :  
 Full on his crown the pond'rous fragment flew,  
 And burst the helm, and cleft the head in two :  
 Prone to the ground the breathless warrior fell,  
 And death involv'd him with the shades of hell. 505  
 Then low in dust Epaltes, Echius lie ;  
 Ipheas, Evippus, Polymelus, die ;  
 Amphoterus, and Erymas succeed ;  
 And last Tlepolemus and Pyres bleed.



Where-e'er he moves the growing slaughters spread  
In heaps on heaps; a monument of dead. 510

When now Sarpedon his brave friends beheld  
Gro'ling in dust, and gasping on the field,  
With this reproach his flying host he warms,  
Oh stain to honour! oh disgrace to arms! 515

Forfake, inglorious, the contended plain;  
This hand, unaided, shall the war sustain:  
The task be mine, this hero's strength to try,  
Who mowes whole troops, and makes an army fly.  
He spake; and, speaking, leapt from off the car; 520  
Patroclus lights, and sternly waits the war.

As when two vultures on the mountain's height  
Stoop with resounding pinions to the fight;  
They cuff, they tear, they raise a screaming cry:  
The desert echoes, and the rocks reply: 525  
The warriors thus oppos'd in arms, engage  
With equal clamours, and with equal rage.

Jove view'd the combat; whose event foreseen,  
He thus bespoke his sister and his queen:  
The hour draws on; the destinies ordain, 530  
My godlike son shall press the Phrygian plain:  
Already on the verge of death he stands,  
His life is ow'd to fierce Patroclus' hands.

What passions in a parent's breast debate!  
Say, shall I snatch him from impending fate, 535  
And send him safe to Lycia, distant far  
From all the dangers and the toils of war;  
Or to his doom my bravest offspring yield,  
And fatten with celestial blood the field?

Then thus the Goddess with the radiant eyes: 540  
What words are these? O sov'reign of the skies!  
Short is the date prescrib'd to mortal man;  
Shall Jove, for one, extend the narrow span,  
Whose bounds were fix'd before his race began?  
How many sons of Gods, foredoom'd to death, 545  
Before proud Ilion must resign their breath!

Were thine exempt, debate would rise above,  
And murm'ring pow'rs condemn their partial Jove.  
Give the bold chief a glorious fate in fight;  
And when th' ascending soul has wing'd her flight, 550  
Let



Let Sleep and Death convey, by thy command,  
 The breathless body to his native land.  
 His friends and people, to his future praise,  
 A marble tomb and pyramid shall raise,  
 And lasting honours to his ashes give; 555  
 His fame ('tis all the dead can have) shall live.

She said; the cloud-compeller overcome,  
 Assents to fate, and ratifies the doom.  
 Then, touch'd with grief, the weeping heav'ns distill'd  
 A show'r of blood o'er all the fatal field; 560  
 The God, his eyes averting from the plain,  
 Laments his son, predestin'd to be slain,  
 Far from the Lycian shores, his happy native reign. }  
 Now met in arms, the combatants appear,  
 Each heav'd the shield, and pois'd the lifted spear: 565  
 From strong Patroclus' hand the jav'lin fled,  
 And pass'd the groin of valiant Thrasymed;  
 The nerves unbrac'd, no more his bulk sustain,  
 He falls, and falling bites the bloody plain.  
 Two sounding darts the Lycian leader threw; 570  
 The first aloof with erring fury flew,  
 The next transpierc'd Achilles' mortal steed,  
 The gen'rous Pedasus, of Theban breed;  
 Fix'd in the shoulder's joint, he reel'd around:  
 Roll'd in the bloody dust, and paw'd the slipp'ry ground.  
 His sudden fall th' entangled harness broke; 575  
 Each axle crackled, and the chariot shook:  
 When bold Automedon, to disengage  
 The starting coursers, and restrain their rage,  
 Divides the traces with his sword, and freed 580  
 Th' incumber'd chariot from the dying steed:  
 The rest move on, obedient to the rein;  
 The car rolls slowly o'er the dusty plain.

The tow'ring chiefs to fiercer fight advance,  
 And first Sarpedon whirl'd his weighty lance, 585  
 Which o'er the warrior's shoulder took its course,  
 And spent in empty air its dying force.  
 Not so Patroclus' never-erring dart;  
 Aim'd at his breast, it pierc'd the mortal part }  
 Where the strong fibres bind the solid heart. 590 }  
 Then, as the mountain oak, or poplar tall,  
 Or pine (fit mast for some great admiral),



Nods to the axe, till with a groaning sound  
 It sinks, and spreads its honours on the ground :  
 Thus fell the king ; and laid on earth supine, 595  
 Before his chariot stretch'd his form divine :  
 He grasp'd the dust distain'd with streaming gore,  
 And pale in death, lay groaning on the shore.  
 So lies a bull beneath the lion's paws,  
 While the grim savage grinds with foamy jaws 600  
 The trembling limbs, and sucks the smoking blood ;  
 Deep groans and hollow roars rebellow thro' the wood.

Then to the leader of the Lycian band  
 The dying chief address'd his last command :  
 Glaucus, be bold ; thy task be first to dare 605  
 The glorious dangers of destructive war,  
 To lead my troops, to combat at their head,  
 Incite the living, and supply the dead.  
 Tell 'em, I charg'd them with my latest breath,  
 Not unreveng'd to bear Sarpedon's death. 610  
 What grief, what shame must Glaucus undergo,  
 If these spoil'd arms adorn a Grecian foe ?  
 Then as a friend, and as a warrior, fight ;  
 Defend my body, conquer in my right :  
 That, taught by great examples, all may try 615  
 Like thee to vanquish, or like me to die.

He ceas'd : the fates suppress'd his lab'ring breath,  
 And his eyes darken'd with the shades of death.  
 Th' insulting victor with disdain bestrode  
 The prostrate prince, and on his bosom trod ; 620  
 Then drew the weapon from his panting heart,  
 The reeking fibres clinging to the dart ;  
 From the wide wound gush'd out a stream of blood,  
 And the soul issu'd in the purple flood.

His flying steeds the Myrmidons detain, 625  
 Unguided now, their mighty master slain.  
 All-impotent of aid, transfix'd with grief,  
 Unhappy Glaucus heard the dying chief.  
 His painful arm, yet useless with the smart  
 Inflicted late by Teucer's deadly dart, 630  
 Supported on his better hand he stay'd ;  
 To Phœbus then ('twas all he could) he pray'd :

All-seeing monarch ! whether Lycia's coast,  
 Or sacred Llion, thy bright presence boast,

Powerful



Pow'rful alike to ease the wretch's smart: 635

Oh hear me! God of ev'ry healing art!

Lo! stiff with clotted blood, and pierc'd with pain;

That thrills my arm, and shoots through ev'ry vein;

I stand unable to sustain the spear,

And sigh, at distance, from the glorious war. 640

Low in the dust is great Sarpedon laid,

Nor Jove vouchsaf'd his hapless offspring aid.

But thou, O God of health! thy succour lend,

To guard the relics of my slaughter'd friend.

For thou, though distant, canst restore my might, 645

To head my Lycians, and support the fight.

Apollo heard; and suppliant as he stood,

His heav'nly hand restrain'd the flux of blood:

He drew the dolours from the wounded part,

And breath'd a spirit in his rising heart. 650

Renew'd by art divine, the hero stands,

And owns th' assistance of immortal hands.

First to the fight his native troops he warms,

Then loudly calls on Troy's vindictive arms;

With ample strides he stalks from place to place; 655

Now fires Agenor, now Polydamas;

Æneas next, and Hector he accosts;

Inflaming thus the rage of all their hosts:

What thoughts, regardless chief! thy breast employ?

Oh too forgetful of the friends of Troy! 660

Those gen'rous friends, who, from their country far,

Breathe their brave souls out in another's war.

See! where in dust the great Sarpedon lies,

In action valiant, and in council wise,

Who guarded right, and kept his people free; 665

To all his Lycians lost, and lost to thee!

Stretch'd by Patroclus' arm on yonder plains,

Oh save from hostile rage his lov'd remains:

Ah let not Greece his conquer'd trophies boast,

Nor on his corse revenge her heroes lost. 670

He spoke; each leader in his grief partook,

Troy, at the loss, through all her legions shook.

Transfix'd with deep regret, they view o'erthrown

At once his country's pillar, and their own;

A chief who led to Troy's beleaguer'd wall 675

A host of heroes, and outshin'd them all.

End



Fir'd they rush on ; first Hector seeks the foes,  
And with superior vengeance greatly glows.

But o'er the dead the fierce Patroclus stands,  
And rousing Ajax, rous'd the list'ning bands : 680

Heroes, be men ! be what you were before ;  
Or weigh the great occasion, and be more.  
The chief who taught our lofty walls to yield,  
Lies pale in death, extended on the field.

To guard his body Troy in numbers flies ; 685  
'Tis half the glory to maintain our prize.

Haste, strip his arms, the slaughter round him spread,  
And send the living Lycians to the dead.

The heroes kindle at his fierce command ;  
The martial squadrons close on either hand : 690

Here Troy and Lycia charge with loud alarms,

Thessalia there, and Greece, oppose their arms,

With horrid shouts they circle round the slain ;

The clash of armour rings o'er all the plain.

Great Jove, to swell the horrors of the fight, 695

O'er the fierce armies pours pernicious Night,

And round his son confounds the warring hosts,

His fate ennobling with a crowd of ghosts.

Now Greece gives way, and great Epigeus falls :

Agaclean's son, from Budium's lofty walls : 700

Who chac'd for murder thence, a suppliant came

To Peleus, and the silver-footed dame :

Now sent to Troy, Achilles' arms to aid,

He pays due vengeance to his kinsman's shade.

Soon as his luckless hand had touch'd the dead, 705

A rock's large fragment thunder'd on his head ;

Hurl'd by Hectorian force, it cleft in twain

His shatter'd helm, and stretch'd him o'er the slain.

Fierce to the van of fight Patroclus came,

And, like an eagle darting at his game, 710

Sprung on the Trojan and the Lycian band ;

What grief thy heart, what fury urg'd thy hand,

Oh gen'rous Greek ! when with full vigour thrown

At Sthenelaüs flew the weighty stone,

Which sunk him to the dead ; when Troy, too near 715

That arm, drew back ; and Hector learn'd to fear.

Far as an able hand a lance can throw,

Or at the lists, or at the fighting foe ;



So far the Trojans from their lines retir'd ;  
Till Glaucus turning, all the rest inspir'd. 720

Then Bathyclæus fell beneath his rage,  
The only hope of Chalcon's trembling age :  
Wide o'er the land was stretch'd his large domain,  
With stately seats, and riches, blest'd in vain :  
Him, bold with youth, and eager to pursue 725

The flying Lycians, Glaucus met, and slew ;  
Pierc'd thro' the bosom with a sudden wound,  
He fell, and falling made the fields resound.

Th' Achaïans sorrow for their hero slain ;  
With conqu'ring shouts the Trojans shake the plain, 730  
And croud to spoil the dead : the Greeks oppose ;  
An iron circle round the carcase grows.

Then brave Laogonus resign'd his breath,  
Dispatch'd by Merion to the shades of death :  
On Ida's holy hill he made abode, 735

The priest of Jove and honour'd like his God.  
Between the jaw and ear the jav'lin went ;  
The soul, exhaling, issu'd at the vent.

His spear Æneas at the victor threw,  
Who stooping forward from the death withdrew ; 740

The lance hiss'd harmless o'er his cov'ring shield,  
And trembling struck, and rooted in the field ;  
There yet scarce spent, it quivers on the plain,  
Sent by the great Æneas' arm in vain.

Swift as thou art, (the raging hero cries), 745  
And skill'd in dancing to dispute the prize,  
My spear, the destin'd passage had it found,  
Had fix'd thy active vigour to the ground.

Oh valiant leader of the Dardan host !  
(Insulted Merion thus retorts the boast), 750  
Strong as you are, 'tis mortal force you trust,  
An arm as strong may stretch thee in the dust.

And if to this my lance thy fate be giv'n,  
Vain are thy vaunts ; success is still from heav'n :  
This, instant, sends thee down to Pluto's coast, 755  
Mine is the glory, his thy parting ghost.

O friend, (Menoetius' son this answer gave),  
With words to combat, ill befits the brave :  
Not empty boasts the sons of Troy repel,  
Your swords must plunge them to the shades of hell.

To



To speak, beseems the council ; but to dare 761  
In glorious action, is the task of war.

This said, Patroclus to the battle flies ;  
Great Merion follows, and new shouts arise :  
Shields, helmets rattle, as the warriors close ; 765  
And thick and heavy sounds the storm of blows.  
As thro' the shrilling vale, or mountain-ground,  
The labours of the woodman's axe resound ;  
Blows following blows are heard re-echoing wide,  
While crackling forests fall on ev'ry side : 770  
Thus echo'd all the fields with loud alarms,  
So fell the warriors, and so rung their arms.

Now great Sarpedon, on the sandy shore,  
His heav'nly form defac'd with dust and gore,  
And stuck with darts by warring heroes shed, 775  
Lies undistinguish'd from the vulgar dead.  
His long-disputed corse the chiefs inclose,  
On ev'ry side the busy combat grows ;  
Thick as beneath some shepherd's thatch'd abode,  
(The pails high foaming with a milky flood), 780  
The buzzing flies, a persevering train,  
Incessant swarm, and chac'd return again.

Jove view'd the combat with a stern survey,  
And eyes that flash'd intolerable day.  
Fix'd on the field his sight, his breast debates 785  
The vengeance due, and meditates the fates ;  
Whether to urge their prompt effect, and call  
The force of Hector to Patroclus' fall,  
This instant see his short-liv'd trophies won,  
And stretch him breathless on his slaughter'd son ; 790  
Or yet, with many a soul's untimely flight,  
Augment the fame and horror of the fight.  
To crown Achilles' valiant friend with praise  
At length he dooms ; and that his last of days  
Shall set in glory ; bids him drive the foe ; 795  
Nor unattended, see the shades below.

Then Hector's mind he fills with dire dismay ;  
He mounts his car, and calls his hosts away,  
Sunk with Troy's heavy fates, he sees decline  
The scales of Jove, and pants with awe divine. 800

Then, nor before, the hardy Lycians fled,  
And left their monarch with the common dead :

Around,



Around, in heaps on heaps, a dreadful wall  
Of carnage rises, as the heroes fall.  
(So Jove decreed !) At length the Greeks obtain 805  
The prize contested, and despoil the slain.  
The radiant arms are by Patroclus born,  
Patroclus' ships the glorious spoils adorn.

Then thus to Phœbus, in the realms above,  
Spoke from his throne the cloud-compelling Jove, 810  
Descend, my Phœbus! on the Phrygian plain,  
And from the fight convey Sarpedon slain ;  
Then bathe his body in the crystal flood,  
With dust dishonour'd, and deform'd with blood :  
O'er all his limbs ambrosial odours shed, 815  
And with celestial robes adorn the dead.  
Those rites discharg'd, his sacred corse bequeath  
To the soft arms of silent Sleep and Death :  
They to his friends the mournful charge shall bear,  
His friends a tomb and pyramid shall rear ; 820  
What honours mortals after death receive,  
Those unavailing honours we may give !

Apollo bows, and from mount Ida's height,  
Swift to the field precipitates his flight ;  
Thence from the war the breathless hero bore, 825  
Veil'd in a cloud, to silver Simois' shore ;  
There bath'd his honourable wounds, and dress'd  
His manly members in th' immortal vest ;  
And with perfumes, of sweet ambrosial dews,  
Restores his freshness, and his form renews. 830  
Then Sleep and Death, two twins of winged race,  
Of matchless swiftness, but of silent pace,  
Receiv'd Sarpedon at the God's command,  
And in a moment reach'd the Lycian land ;  
The corse amidst his weeping friends they laid, 835  
Where endless honours wait the sacred shade.

Meanwhile Patroclus pours along the plains,  
With foaming couriers, and with loosen'd reins.  
Fierce on the Trojan and the Lycian crew,  
Ah blind to fate ! thy headlong fury flew : 840  
Against what fate and pow'rful Jove ordain,  
Vain was thy friend's command, thy courage vain.  
For he, the God, whose counsels uncontroll'd  
Dismay the mighty, and confound the bold ;

The



The God, who gives, resumes, and orders all, 845  
He urg'd thee on, and urg'd thee on to fall.

Who first, brave hero ! by that arm was slain,  
Who last, beneath thy vengeance press'd the plain ;  
When heav'n itself thy fatal fury led,  
And call'd to fill the number of the dead ? 850

Adrestus first ; Autonus then succeeds ;  
Echleus follows ; next young Megas bleeds ;  
Epistor, Menalippus, bite the ground ;  
The slaughter Elafus and Mulus crown'd :  
Then sunk Pylartes to eternal night ; 855  
The rest dispersing, trust their fates to flight.

Now Troy had stoop'd beneath his matchless pow'r,  
But flaming Phœbus kept the sacred tow'r.  
Thrice at the battlements Patroclus strook,  
His blazing ægis thrice Apollo shook : 860  
He try'd the fourth ; when, bursting from the cloud,  
A more than mortal voice was heard aloud.

Patroclus ! cease ; this heav'n-defended wall  
Defies thy lance ; not fated yet to fall :  
Thy friend, thy greater far, it shall withstand, 865  
Troy shall not stoop ev'n to Achilles' hand.

So spoke the God, who darts celestial fires :  
The Greek obeys him, and with awe retires.  
While Hector checking at the Scæan gates  
His panting courfers, in his breast debates, 870  
Or in the field his forces to employ,

Or draw the troops within the walls of Troy.  
Thus while he thought, beside him Phœbus stood,  
In Asius' shape, who reign'd by Sangar's flood ;  
(Thy brother, Hecuba ! from Dymas sprung, 875  
A valiant warrior, haughty, bold, and young).  
Thus he accosts him. What a shameful fight !

Gods ! is it Hector that forbears the fight ?  
Were thine my vigour, this successful spear  
Should soon convince thee of so false a fear. 880

Turn thee, ah turn thee to the field of fame,  
And in Patroclus blood efface thy shame.

Perhaps Apollo shall thy arms succeed,  
And heav'n ordains him by thy lance to bleed.

So spoke th' inspiring God ; then took his flight, 885  
And plung'd amidst the tumult of the fight.



He bids Cebrion drive the rapid car ;  
The lash resounds, the courfers rush to war,  
The God the Grecians sinking souls deprest,  
And pour'd swift spirits through each Trojan breast. 890  
Patroclus lights, impatient for the fight ;  
A spear his left, a stone employs his right :  
With all his nerves he drives it at the foe ;  
Pointed above, and rough and gross below :  
The falling ruin crush'd Cebrion's head, 895  
(The lawless offspring of king Priam's bed) ;  
His front, brows, eyes, one undistinguish'd wound :  
The bursting balls drop fightless to the ground.  
The charioteer, while yet he held the rein,  
Struck from the car, falls headlong on the plain. 900  
To the dark shades the soul unwilling glides,  
While the proud victor thus his fall derides :

Good heav'ns ! what active feats yon artist shows ?  
What skilful divers are our Phrygian foes !  
Mark with what ease they sink into the sand ! 905  
Pity ! that all their practice is by land.

Then rushing sudden on his prostrate prize,  
To spoil the carcase fierce Patroclus flies ;  
Swift as a lion, terrible and bold,  
That sweeps the fields, depopulates the fold ; 910  
Pierc'd through the dauntless heart, then tumbles slain ;  
And from his fatal courage finds his bane.  
At once bold Hector leaping from his car,  
Defends the body, and provokes the war.  
Thus for some slaughter'd hind, with equal rage, 915  
Two lordly rulers of the wood engage ;  
Stung with fierce hunger, each the prey invades,  
And echoing roars rebellow through the shades.  
Stern Hector fastens on the warrior's head,  
And by the foot Patroclus drags the dead. 920  
While all around, confusion, rage, and fright,  
Mix the contending hosts in mortal fight.  
So pent by hills, the wild winds roar aloud  
In the deep bosom of some gloomy wood ;  
Leaves, arms, and trees aloft in air are blown, 925  
The broad oaks crackle, and the sylvans groan ;  
This way and that, the rattling thicket bends,  
And the whole forest in one crash descends.



Not with less noise, with less tumultuous rage,  
In dreadful shock the mingled hosts engage. 930

Darts show'r'd on darts, now round the carcase ring;  
Now flights of arrows bounding from the string:  
Stones follow stones; some clatter on the fields,  
Some hard and heavy, shake the founding shields.

But where the rising whirlwind clouds the plains, 935 }  
Sunk in soft dust the mighty chief remains, }  
And, stretch'd in death, forgets the guiding reins!

Now flaming from the zenith, Sol had driv'n  
His fervid orb through half the vault of heav'n;  
While on each host with equal tempest fell 940  
The show'ring darts, and numbers sunk to hell.  
But when his ev'ning-wheels o'erhung the main,  
Glad conquest rested on the Grecian train.

Then from amidst the tumult and alarms,  
They draw the conquer'd corse, and radiant arms. 945  
Then rash Patroclus with new fury glows,  
And breathing slaughter, pours amid the foes.  
Thrice on the press like Mars himself he flew,  
And thrice three heroes at each onset slew.

There ends thy glory! there the fates untwine 950  
The last, black remnant of so bright a line;  
Apollo dreadful stops thy middle way;  
Death calls, and heav'n allows no longer day!

For lo! the God in dusky clouds enshrin'd,  
Approaching dealt a staggering blow behind. 955

The weighty shock his neck and shoulders feel;  
His eyes flash sparkles, his stup'n'd senses reel  
In giddy darkness; far to distance flung,  
His bounded helmet on the campaign rung.

Achilles' plume is stain'd with dust and gore; 960  
That plume, which never stoop'd to earth before;  
Long us'd, untouch'd, in fighting fields to shine,  
And shed the temples of the man divine.

Jove dooms it now on Hector's helm to nod;  
Not long—for fate pursues him and the God. 965

His spear in shivers falls; his ample shield  
Drops from his arm; his baldric strows the field:  
The corslet his astonish'd breast forsakes:  
Loose is each joint; each nerve with horror shakes.

Stupid



Stupid he stares, and all-assistless stands : 970  
Such is the force of more than mortal hands !

A Dardan youth there was, well known to fame :  
From Panthus sprung, Euphorbus was his name ;  
Fam'd for the manage of the foaming horse,  
Skill'd in the dart, and matchless in the course. 975  
Full twenty knights he tumbled from the car,  
While yet he learn'd his rudiments of war.

His vent'rous spear first drew the hero's gore :  
He struck, he wounded, but he durst no more ;  
Nor tho' disarm'd, Patroclus' fury stood : 980  
But swift withdrew the long-protended wood,  
And turn'd him short, and herded in the croud.

Thus, by an arm divine, and mortal spear,  
Wounded at once, Patroclus yields to fear,  
Retires for succour to his social train, 985  
And flies the fate, which heav'n decreed, in vain.

Stern Hector, as the bleeding chief he views,  
Breaks thro' the ranks, and his retreat pursues :  
The lance arrests him with a mortal wound ;  
He falls, earth thunders, and his arms resound. 990  
With him all Greece was sunk ; that moment all  
Her yet-surviving heroes seem'd to fall.

So scorch'd with heat, along the desert shore,  
The roaming lion meets a bristly boar,  
Fast by the spring ; they both dispute the flood, 995  
With flaming eyes, and jaws besmear'd with blood ;  
At length the sov'reign savage wins the strife,  
And the torn boar resigns his thirst and life.

Patroclus thus, so many chiefs o'erthrown,  
So many lives effus'd, expires his own. 1000  
As dying now at Hector's feet he lies,  
He sternly views him, and triumphing cries :

Lie there, Patroclus ! and with thee, the joy  
Thy pride once promis'd of subverting Troy ;  
The fancy'd scenes of Ilion wrapt in flames, 1005  
And thy soft pleasures serv'd with captive dames :  
Unthinking man : I fought, those tow'rs to free,  
And guard that beauteous race from lords like thee :  
But thou a prey to vultures shalt be made ;  
Thy own Achilles cannot lend thee aid ; 1010



Tho' much at parting that great chief might say,  
And much enjoin thee, this important day.

"Return not, my brave friend," (perhaps he said),  
"Without the bloody arms of Hector dead."

He spoke, Patroclus march'd, and thus he sped.

Supine, and wildly gazing on the skies, 1016  
With faint, expiring grief, the chief replies.

Vain boaster ! cease, and know the pow'rs divine ;  
Jove's and Apollo's is this deed, not thine ;  
To heav'n is ow'd whate'er your own you call, 1020  
And heav'n itself disarm'd me ere my fall.

Had twenty mortals each thy match in might,  
Oppos'd me fairly, they had sunk in fight :  
By fate and Phœbus was I first o'erthrown,  
Euphorbus next ; the third mean part thy own. 1025

But thou, imperious ! hear my latest breath ;  
The Gods inspire it, and it sounds thy death.  
Insulting man, thou shalt be soon, as I ;  
Black fate hangs o'er thee, and thy hour draws nigh ;  
Ev'n now on life's last verge I see thee stand, 1030  
I see thee fall, and by Achilles' hand.

He faints ; the soul unwilling wings her way,  
(The beauteous body left a load of clay,)  
Flits to the lone uncomfortable coast ;  
A naked, wand'ring, melancholy ghost ! 1035

Then Hector pausing, as his eyes he fed  
On the pale carcase thus address'd the dead :  
From whence this boding speech, the stern decree  
Of death denounc'd, or why denounc'd to me ?  
Why not as well Achilles' fate be giv'n 1040  
To Hector's lance ! Who knows the will of heav'n ?

Pensive he said : then pressing as he lay  
His breathless bosom, tore the lance away ;  
And upwards cast the corpse ; the reeking spear  
He shakes, and charges the bold charioteer. 1045  
But swift Automedon with loosen'd reins  
Rapt in the chariot o'er the distant plains,  
Far from his rage th' immortal courfers drove ;  
Th' immortal courfers were the gift of Jove.



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K XVII.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

The seventh battle, for the body of Patroclus : the acts of Menelaus.

*Menelaus, upon the death of Patroclus, defends his body from the enemy: Euphorbus, who attempts it, is slain. Hector advancing, Menelaus retires; but soon returns with Ajax, and drives him off. This Glaucus objects to Hector as a flight, who thereupon puts on the armour he had won from Patroclus, and renews the battle. The Greeks give way, till Ajax rallies them: Æneas sustains the Trojans. Æneas and Hector attempt the chariot of Achilles, which is borne off by Automedon. The horses of Achilles deplore the loss of Patroclus: Jupiter covers his body with a thick darkness: the noble prayer of Ajax on that occasion. Menelaus sends Antilochus to Achilles, with the news of Patroclus's death: then returns to the fight, where, though attacked with the utmost fury, he and Meriones, assisted by the Ajaces, bear off the body to the ships.*

*The time is the evening of the eight and twentieth day.  
The scene lies in the fields before Troy.*

ON the cold earth divine Patroclus spread,  
Lies pierc'd with wounds among the vulgar dead.  
Great Menelaüs, touch'd with gen'rous woe,  
Springs to the front, and guards him from the foe:  
Thus round her new-fall'n young the heifer moves,  
Fruit of her throes, and first born of her loves ;



And anxious, (helpless as he lies and bare),  
Turns, and returns her with a mother's care.  
Oppos'd to each that near the carcase came,  
His broad shield glimmers, and his lances flame.

10

The son of Panthus skill'd the dart to fend,  
Eyes the dead hero, and insults the friend.  
This hand, Atrides, laid Patroclus low ;  
Warrior ! desist, nor tempt an equal blow :  
To me the spoils my prowess won, resign :  
Depart with life, and leave the glory mine.

15

The Trojan thus : the Spartan monarch burn'd  
With gen'rous anguish, and in scorn return'd :  
Laugh'st thou not, Jove ! from thy superior throne,  
When mortals boast of prowess not their own ?

20

Not thus the lion glories in his might,  
Nor panther braves his spotted foe in fight,  
Nor thus the boar (those terrors of the plain) ;  
Man only vaunts his force, and vaunts in vain.  
But far the vainest of the boastful kind

25

These sons of Panthus vent their haughty mind.  
Yet 'twas but late, beneath my conqu'ring steel  
This boaster's brother, Hyperenor, fell,  
Against our arm, which rashly he defy'd,  
Vain was his vigour, and as vain his pride.

30

These eyes beheld him on the dust expire,  
No more to cheer his spouse, or glad his fire.  
Presumptuous youth ! like his shall be thy doom,  
Go, wait thy brother to the Stygian gloom ;  
Or while thou mayst, avoid the threaten'd fate :  
Fools stay to feel it, and are wise too late.

35

Unmov'd, Euphorbus thus : That action known,  
Come, for my brother's blood repay thy own.  
His weeping father claims thy destin'd head,  
And spouse, a widow in her bridal bed.

40

On these thy conquer'd spoils I shall bestow,  
To sooth a consort's and a parent's woe.  
No longer then defer the glorious strife,  
Let heav'n decide our fortune, fame and life.

Swift as the word the missile lance he flings,  
The well-aim'd weapon on the buckler rings,  
But blunted by the brass innoxious falls.  
On Jove the rather, great Atrides calls ;

45

Nor



Nor flies the jav'lin from his arm in vain,  
 It pierc'd his throat, and bent him to the plain : 50  
 While thro' the neck appears the grisly wound,  
 Prone sinks the warrior, and his arms resound.

The shining circlets of his golden hair,  
 Which even the graces might be proud to wear,  
 Instarr'd with gems and gold, bestrow the shore, 55  
 With dust dishonour'd, and deform'd with gore.

As the young olive, in some sylvan scene,  
 Crown'd by fresh fountains with eternal green,  
 Lifts the gay head, in snowy flow'rets fair,  
 And plays and dances to the gentle air ; 60

When lo ! a whirlwind from high heav'n invades  
 The tender plant, and withers all its shades :  
 It lies uprooted from its genial bed,  
 A lovely ruin now defac'd and dead.

Thus young, thus beautiful, Euphorbus lay, 65  
 While the fierce Spartan tore his arms away.  
 Proud of his deed, and glorious in the prize,  
 Affrighted Troy the tow'ring victor flies :

Flies, as before some mountain-lion's ire  
 The village-curs, and trembling swains retire ; 70  
 When o'er the slaughter'd bull they hear him roar,  
 And see his jaws distil with smoking gore ;  
 All pale with fear, at distance scatter'd round,  
 They shout incessant, and the vales resound.

Mean-while Apollo view'd with envious eyes, 75  
 And urg'd great Hector to dispute the prize,  
 (In Mentès' shape, beneath whose martial care  
 The rough Ciconians learn'd the trade of war) :  
 Forbear (he cry'd) with fruitless speed to chace  
 Achilles' courfers, of æthereal race ; 80

They stoop not, these, to mortal man's command,  
 Or stoop to none but great Achilles' hand.  
 Too long amus'd with a pursuit so vain,  
 Turn, and behold the brave Euphorbus slain !  
 By Sparta slain ! for ever now suppress'd 85

The fire which burn'd in that undaunted breast !

Thus having spoke, Apollo wing'd his flight,  
 And mix'd with mortals in the toils of fight :  
 His words infix'd unutterable care  
 Deep in great Hector's soul : thro' all the war 90

He



He darts his anxious eye ; and instant view'd  
 The breathless hero in his blood imbru'd,  
 (Forth swelling from the wound, as prone he lay),  
 And in the victor's hands the shining prey.  
 Sheath'd in bright arms, thro' cleaving ranks he flies, 95  
 And sends his voice in thunder to the skies :  
 Fierce as a flood of flame by Vulcan sent,  
 It flew, and fir'd the nations as it went.  
 Atrides from the voice the storm divin'd,  
 And thus explor'd his own unconquer'd mind : 100

Then shall I quit Patroclus on the plain,  
 Slain in my cause, and for my honour slain ?  
 Desert the arms, the relics of my friend ?  
 Or, singly, Hector and his troops attend ?  
 Sure where such partial favour heav'n bestow'd, 105  
 To brave the hero were to brave the God :  
 Forgive me, Greece, if once I quit the field :  
 'Tis not to Hector, but to heav'n I yield.  
 Yet, nor the God, nor heav'n should give me fear,  
 Did but the voice of Ajax reach my ear : 110  
 Still would we turn, still battle on the plains,  
 And give Achilles all that yet remains  
 Of his and our Patroclus——This, no more,  
 The time allow'd : Troy thicken'd on the shore,  
 A fable scene ! The terrors Hector led : 115  
 Slow he recedes, and, fighting, quits the dead.

So from the fold th' unwilling lion parts,  
 Forc'd by loud clamours, and a storm of darts ;  
 He flies indeed ; but threatens as he flies,  
 With heart indignant and retorted eyes. 120  
 Now enter'd in the Spartan ranks, he turn'd  
 His manly breast, and with new fury burn'd,  
 O'er all the black battalions sent his view,  
 And through the cloud the godlike Ajax knew ;  
 Where lab'ring on the left the warrior stood, 125  
 All grim in arms, and cover'd o'er with blood,  
 There breathing courage, where the God of day  
 Had sunk each heart with terror and dismay.

To him the king : Oh Ajax, oh my friend !  
 Haste, and Patroclus' lov'd remains defend : 130  
 The body to Achilles to restore,  
 Demands our care ; alas, we can no more !



For naked now, despoil'd of arms he lies ;  
 And Hector glories in the dazzling prize.  
 He said, and touch'd his heart. The raging pair 135  
 Pierce the thick battle, and provoke the war.  
 Already had stern Hector seiz'd his head,  
 And doom'd to Trojan dogs th' unhappy dead ;  
 But soon (as Ajax rear'd his tow'r-like shield)  
 Sprung to his car, and measur'd back the field. 140  
 His train to Troy the radiant armour bear,  
 To stand a trophy of his fame in war.

Mean-while great Ajax (his broad shield display'd)  
 Guards the dead hero with the dreadful shade ;  
 And now before, and now behind he stood : 145  
 Thus in the centre of some gloomy wood,  
 With many a step the lionsess surrounds  
 Her tawny young, beset by men and hounds ;  
 Elate her heart, and rousing all her pow'rs,  
 Dark o'er the fiery balls each hanging eye-brow low'rs.  
 Fast by his side, the gen'rous Spartan glows 151  
 With great revenge, and feeds his inward woes.

But Glaucus, leader of the Lycian aids,  
 On Hector frowning, thus his flight upbraids :  
 Where now in Hector shall we Hector find ? 155  
 A manly form, without a manly mind.  
 Is this, O chief, a hero's boasted fame ?  
 How vain, without the merit, is the name ?  
 Since battle is renounc'd, thy thoughts employ  
 What other methods may preserve thy Troy : 160  
 'Tis time to try if Ilion's state can stand  
 By thee alone, nor ask a foreign hand ;  
 Mean, empty boast ! but shall the Lycians stake  
 Their lives for you ? those Lycians you forsake ?  
 What from thy thankless arms can we expect ? 165  
 Thy friend Sarpedon proves thy base neglect :  
 Say, shall our slaughter'd bodies guard your walls,  
 While unreveng'd the great Sarpedon falls ?  
 Ev'n where he dy'd for Troy you left him there,  
 A feast for dogs, and all the fowls of air. 170  
 On my command if any Lycian wait,  
 Hence let him march, and give up Troy to fate.  
 Did such a spirit as the Gods impart  
 Impel one Trojan hand, or Trojan heart ;

(Such,



(Such, as should burn in ev'ry soul that draws 175  
 The sword for glory, and his country's cause);  
 Ev'n yet our mutual arms we might employ,  
 And drag yon carcase to the walls of Troy.  
 O! were Patroclus ours, we might obtain  
 Sarpedon's arms, and honour'd corse again! 180  
 Greece with Achilles' friend should be repaid,  
 And thus due honours purchas'd to his shade.  
 But words are vain——Let Ajax once appear,  
 And Hector trembles and recedes with fear;  
 Thou dar'st not meet the terrors of his eye; 185  
 And lo! already thou prepar'st to fly.

The Trojan chief with fix'd resentment e'yd  
 The Lycian leader, and sedate reply'd:

Say, is it just (my friend) that Hector's ear  
 From such a warrior such a speech should hear? 190  
 I deem'd thee once the wisest of thy kind,  
 But ill this insult suits a prudent mind.  
 I shun great Ajax! I desert my train!  
 'Tis mine to prove the rash assertion vain;  
 I joy to mingle where the battle bleeds, 195  
 And hear the thunder of the sounding steeds.  
 But Jove's high will is ever uncontroll'd,  
 The strong he withers, and confounds the bold;  
 Now crowns with fame the mighty man, and now  
 Strikes the fresh garland from the victor's brow! 200  
 Come, thro' yon squadrons let us hew the way,  
 And thou be witness, if I fear to-day;  
 If yet a Greek the sight of Hector dread,  
 Or yet their hero dare defend the dead.

Then turning to the martial hosts, he cries, 205  
 Ye Trojans, Dardans, Lycians, and allies!  
 Be men (my friends) in action as in name,  
 And yet be mindful of your ancient fame,  
 Hector in proud Achilles' arms shall shine,  
 Torn from his friend, by right of conquest mine. 210

He strode along the field as thus he said:  
 (The sable plumage nodded o'er his head);  
 Swift thro' the spacious plain he sent a look;  
 One instant saw, one instant overtook  
 The distant band, that on the sandy shore 215  
 The radiant spoils to sacred Ilion bore.

There



There his own mail unbrac'd the field bestrow'd ;  
 His train to Troy convey'd the massy load.  
 Now blazing in th' immortal arm he stands,  
 The work and present of celestial hands ; 220  
 By aged Peleus to Achilles giv'n,  
 As first to Peleus by the court of heav'n :  
 His father's arms not long Achilles wears,  
 Forbid by fate to reach his father's years.

Him, proud in triumph, glitt'ring from afar, 225  
 The God whose thunder rends the troubled air,  
 Beheld with pity ; as apart he sat,  
 And conscious, look'd thro' all the scene of fate.  
 He shook the sacred honours of his head ;  
 Olympus trembled, and the Godhead said : 230

Ah wretched man ! unmindful of thy end !  
 A moment's glory ! and what fates attend ?  
 In heav'nly panoply divinely bright  
 Thou stand'st, and armies tremble at thy sight,  
 As at Achilles' self ! beneath thy dart 235  
 Lies slain the great Achilles' dearer part :  
 Thou from the mighty dead those arms hast torn,  
 Which once the greatest of mankind had worn.  
 Yet live ! I give thee one illustrious day,  
 A blaze of glory ere thou fad'st away. 240

For ah ! no more Andromache shall come,  
 With joyful tears to welcome Hector home ;  
 No more officious, with endearing charms,  
 From thy tir'd limbs unbrace Pelides' arms !

Then with his sable brow he gave the nod, 245  
 That seals his word ; the sanction of the God.  
 The stubborn arms (by Jove's command dispos'd)  
 Conform'd spontaneous, and around him clos'd ;  
 Fill'd with the God, enlarg'd his members grew,  
 Thro' all his veins a sudden vigour flew, 250

The blood in brisker tides began to roll,  
 And Mars himself came rushing on his soul.  
 Exhorting loud, thro' all the field he strode,  
 And look'd, and mov'd, Achilles, or a God.  
 Now Mesthles, Glaucus, Medon, he inspires, 255  
 Now Phorcys, Chromius, and Hippothous fires ;

The



The great Therfilochus like fury found  
 Afteropæus kindled at the found,  
 And Ennomus in augury renown'd.  
 Hear all ye hosts, and hear unnumber'd bands 260  
 Of neighb'ring nations, or of distant lands!  
 'Twas not for state we summon'd you so far,  
 To boast our numbers, and the pomp of war;  
 Ye came to fight; a valiant foe to chace,  
 To save our present, and our future race. 265  
 For this our wealth, our products, you enjoy,  
 And glean the relics of exhausted Troy.  
 Now then to conquer or to die prepare,  
 To die or conquer, are the terms of war.  
 Whatever hand shall win Patroclus slain, 270  
 Whoe'er shall drag him to the Trojan train,  
 With Hector's self shall equal honours claim;  
 With Hector part the spoil and share the fame.

Fir'd by his words, the troops dismiss their fears,  
 They join, they thicken, they protend their spears; 275  
 Full on the Greeks they drive in firm array,  
 And each from Ajax hopes the glorious prey:  
 Vain hope! what numbers shall the field o'erspread,  
 What victims perish round the mighty dead?

Great Ajax mark'd the growing storm from far, 280  
 And thus bespoke his brother of the war.  
 Our fatal day, alas! is come, (my friend),  
 And all our wars and glories at an end!  
 'Tis not this corse alone we guard in vain,  
 Condemn'd to vultures on the Trojan plain; 285  
 We too must yield; the same sad fate must fall  
 On thee, on me, perhaps (my friend) on all.  
 See what a tempest direful Hector spreads,  
 And lo! it bursts, it thunders on our heads!  
 Call on our Greeks, if any hear the call, 290  
 The bravest Greeks: this hour demands them all.

The warrior rais'd his voice, and wide around  
 The field re-echo'd the distressful sound.  
 Oh chiefs! oh princes! to whose hand is giv'n  
 The rule of men; whose glory is from heav'n! 295  
 Whom with due honours both Atrides grace;  
 Ye guides and guardians of our Argive race!



All, whom this well-known voice shall reach from far,  
 All, whom I see not through this cloud of war;  
 Come all ! let gen'rous rage your arms employ, 300  
 And save Patroclus from the dogs of Troy.

Oilean Ajax first the voice obey'd,  
 Swift was his pace, and ready was his aid;  
 Next him Idomeneus, more slow with age,  
 And Merion, burning with a hero's rage. 305  
 The long-succeeding numbers who can name?  
 But all were Greeks, and eager all for fame.

Fierce to the charge great Hector led the throng;  
 Whole Troy embodied, rush'd with shouts along.  
 Thus, when a mountain-billow foams and raves, 310  
 Where some swollen river disembogues his waves,  
 Full in the mouth is stopp'd the rushing tide,  
 The boiling ocean works from side to side,  
 The river trembles to its utmost shore,  
 And distant rocks rebellow to the roar. 315

Nor less resolv'd, the firm Achaian band  
 With brazen shields in horrid circle stand:  
 Jove, pouring darkness o'er the mingled fight,  
 Conceals the warriors shining helms in night:  
 To him, the chief for whom the hosts contend, 320  
 Had liv'd not hateful, for he liv'd a friend:  
 Dead he protects him with superior care,  
 Nor dooms his carcase to the birds of air.

The first attack the Grecians scarce sustain,  
 Repuls'd, they yield, the Trojans seize the slain: 325  
 Then fierce they rally, to revenge led on  
 By the swift rage of Ajax Telamon;  
 (Ajax to Peleus' son the second name,  
 In graceful stature next, and next in fame.)  
 With headlong force the foremost ranks he tore; 330  
 So through the thicket bursts the mountain boar,  
 And rudely scatters, far to distance round,  
 The frightened hunter, and the baying hound,  
 The son of Lethus, brave Pelasgus' heir,  
 Hippothous, dragg'd the carcase through the war; 335  
 The finewy ancles bor'd, the feet he bound  
 With thongs, inserted through the double wound:  
 Inevitable fate o'ertakes the dead;  
 Doom'd by great Ajax' vengeful lance to bleed;



It cleft the helmet's brazen cheeks in twain ; 340  
 The shatter'd crest, and horse-hair strow the plain :  
 With nerves relax'd he tumbles to the ground ;  
 The brain comes gushing thro' the ghastly wound :  
 He drops Patroclus' foot, and o'er him spread  
 Now lies, a sad companion of the dead : 345  
 Far from Larissa lies, his native air,  
 And ill requites his parent's tender care.  
 Lamented youth ! in life's first bloom he fell,  
 Sent by great Ajax to the shades of hell.

Once more at Ajax, Hector's jav'lin flies ; 350  
 The Grecian, marking as it cut the skies,  
 Shunn'd the descending death ; which hissing on,  
 Stretch'd in the dust the great Iphytus' son,  
 Schedius the brave, of all the Phocian kind  
 The boldest warrior, and the noblest mind : 355  
 In little Panopè for strength renown'd,  
 He held his seat, and rul'd the realms around.  
 Plung'd in his throat, the weapon drank his blood,  
 And deep transpiercing, through the shoulder stood ;  
 In clanging arms the hero fell, and all 360  
 The fields resounded with his weighty fall.  
 Phorcys, as slain Hippothous he defends,  
 The Telamonian lance his belly rends ;  
 The hollow armour burst before the stroke,  
 And through the wound the rushing entrails broke. 365  
 In strong convulsions panting on the sands  
 He lies, and grasps the dust with dying hands.

Struck at the sight, recede the Trojan train :  
 The shouting Argives strip the heroes slain.  
 And now had Troy, by Greece compell'd to yield, 370  
 Fled to her ramparts, and resign'd the field ;  
 Greece, in her native fortitude elate,  
 With Jove averse, had turn'd the scale of fate :  
 But Phœbus urg'd Æneas to the fight :  
 He seem'd like aged Periphas to fight : 375  
 (A herald in Anchises' love grown old,  
 Rever'd for prudence, and with prudence, bold).

Thus he——What methods yet, oh chief ! remain,  
 To save your Troy, though heav'n its fall ordain ?  
 There have been heroes, who by virtuous care, 380  
 By valour, numbers, and by arts of war,

Have



Have forc'd the pow'rs to spare a sinking state,  
 And gain'd at length the glorious odds of fate.  
 But you, when fortune smiles, when Jove declares  
 His partial favour, and assists your wars, 385  
 Your shameful efforts 'gainst yourselves employ,  
 And force th' unwilling God to ruin Troy.

Æneas thro' the form assum'd descries  
 The pow'r conceal'd, and thus to Hector cries:  
 Oh lasting shame! to our own fears a prey, 390  
 We seek our ramparts, and desert the day:  
 A God (nor is he less) my bosom warms,  
 And tells me, Jove asserts the Trojan arms.

He spoke, and foremost to the combat flew:  
 The bold example all his hosts pursue. 395  
 Then first, Leocritus beneath him bled,  
 In vain belov'd by valiant Lycomedes;  
 Who view'd his fall, and grieving at the chance,  
 Swift to revenge it, sent his angry lance:  
 The whirling lance, with vig'rous force addrest, 400  
 Descends, and pants in Apisaon's breast:  
 From rich Pæonia's vales the warrior came,  
 Next thee Afteropæus! in place and fame.  
 Afteropæus with grief beheld the slain,  
 And rush'd to combat, but he rush'd in vain: 405  
 Indissolubly firm, around the dead,  
 Rank within rank, on buckler buckler spread,  
 And hemm'd with bristled spears the Grecians stood;  
 A brazen bulwark, and an iron wood,  
 Great Ajax eyes them with incessant care, 410  
 And in an orb contracts the crouded war,  
 Close in the ranks, commands to fight or fall,  
 And stands the centre and the soul of all:  
 Fix'd on the spot they war, and wounded, wound;  
 A sanguine torrent steeps the reeking ground; 415  
 On heaps the Greeks, on heaps the Trojans bled,  
 And thick'ning round them, rise the hills of dead.

Greece, in close order, and collected might,  
 Yet suffers least, and sways the wav'ring fight;  
 Fierce as conflicting fires, the combat burns, 420  
 And now it rises, now it sinks by turns.  
 In one thick darkness all the fight was lost;  
 The sun, the moon, and all th' ætherial host



Seem'd as extinct : day ravish'd from their eyes,  
And all heav'n's splendors blotted from the skies. 425

Such o'er Patroclus' body hung the night,  
The rest in sun-shine fought, and open light :

Unclouded there, the aërial azure spread,

No vapour rested on the mountain's head.

The golden sun pour'd forth a stronger ray, 430

And all the broad expansion flam'd with day.

Dispers'd around the plain, by fits they fight,

And here, and there, their scatter'd arrows light :

But death and darkness o'er the carcase spread,

There burn'd the war, and there the mighty bled. 435

Mean-while the sons of Nestor, in the rear,

(Their fellows routed), toss the distant spear,

And skirmish wide : so Nestor gave command,

When from the ships he sent the Pylian band.

The youthful brothers thus for fame contend, 440

Nor knew the fortune of Achilles' friend ;

In thought they view'd him still, with martial joy,

Glorious in arms, and dealing deaths to Troy.

But round the corse, the heroes pant for breath,

And thick and heavy grows the work of death : 445

O'erlabour'd now, with dust, and sweat, and gore,

Their knees, their legs, their feet are cover'd o'er ;

Drops follow drops, the clouds on clouds arise, [eyes.

And carnage clogs their hands, and darkness fills their

As when a slaughter'd bull's yet reeking hide, 450

Strain'd with full force, and tugg'd from side to side,

The brawny carriers stretch ; and labour o'er,

Th' extended surface, drunk with fat and gore ;

So tugging round the corpse both armies stood ;

The mangled body bath'd in sweat and blood : 455

While Greeks and Ilions equal strength employ,

Now to the ships to force it, now to Troy.

Not Pallas self, her breast when fury warms,

Nor he, whose anger sets the world in arms,

Could blame this scene ; such rage, such horror reign'd ;

Such, Jove to honour, the great dead ordain'd. 460

Achilles in his ships at distance lay,

Nor knew the fatal fortune of the day ;

He, yet unconscious of Patroclus' fall,

In dust extended under Ilion's wall, 465

Expects



Expects him glorious from the conquer'd plain,  
And for his wish'd return prepares in vain :  
Though well he knew, to make proud Ilion bend,  
Was more than heav'n had destin'd to his friend,  
Perhaps to him : this Thetis had reveal'd ; 470  
The rest, in pity to her son, conceal'd.

Still rag'd the conflict round the hero dead,  
And heaps on heaps, by mutual wounds they bled.  
Curs'd be the man (ev'n private Greeks would say)  
Who dares desert this well-disputed day ! 475  
First may the cleaving earth before our eyes  
Gape wide, and drink our blood for sacrifice !  
First perish all, ere haughty Troy shall boast  
We lost Patroclus, and our glory lost.

Thus they. While with one voice the Trojans said :  
Grant this day, Jove ! or heap us on the dead ! 481  
Then clash their sounding arms : the clangours rise,  
And shake the brazen concave of the skies.

Mean-time, at distance from the scene of blood,  
The pensive steeds of great Achilles stood ; 585  
Their godlike master slain before their eyes,  
They wept, and shar'd in human miseries.  
In vain Automedon now shakes the rein,  
Now plies the lash, and soothes and threats in vain ;  
Nor to the fight, nor Hellespont they go, 490  
Restive they stood, and obstinate in woe :  
Still as a tomb-stone, never to be mov'd,  
On some good man, or woman unprov'd,  
Lays its eternal weight ; or fix'd, as stands  
A marble courser by the sculptor's hands, 495  
Plac'd on the hero's grave. Along their face,  
The big round drops cours'd down with silent pace,  
Conglobing on the dust. Their manes, that late  
Circled their arched necks, and wav'd in state,  
Trail'd on the dust beneath the yoke were spread, 500  
And prone to earth was hung their languid head :  
Nor Jove disdain'd to cast a pitying look,  
While thus relenting to the steeds he spoke :

Unhappy coursers of immortal strain !  
Exempt from age, and deathless now in vain ; 505  
Did we your race on mortal man bestow,  
Only, alas ! to share in mortal woe ?



For ah ! what is there, of inferior birth,  
That breathes or creeps upon the dust of earth ;  
What wretched creature of what wretched kind, 510  
Than man more weak, calamitous, and blind ?

A miserable race ! but cease to mourn :  
For not by you shall Priam's son be borne  
High on the splendid car : one glorious prize  
He rashly boasts ; the rest our will denies. 515

Ourself will swiftness to your nerves impart,  
Ourself with rising spirits swell your heart.  
Automedon your rapid flight shall bear  
Safe to the navy through the storm of war.  
For yet, 'tis giv'n to Troy, to ravage o'er 520  
The field, and spread her slaughters to the shore ;  
The sun shall see her conquer, 'till his fall  
With sacred darkness shades the face of all.

He said ; and breathing in th' immortal horse  
Excessive spirit, urg'd them to the course ; 525  
From their high manes they shake the dust, and bear  
The kindling chariot through the parted war :  
So flies a vulture through the clam'rous train  
Of geese, that scream, and scatter round the plain.  
From danger now with swiftest speed they flew, 530  
And now to conquest with like speed pursue :  
Sole in the seat the charioteer remains,  
Now plies the jav'lin, now directs the reins :

Him brave Alcimedon beheld distressed,  
Approach'd the chariot, and the chief address'd : 535

What God provokes thee, rashly thus to dare,  
Alone, unaided, in the thickest war ?

Alas ! thy friend is slain, and Hector wields  
Achilles' arms triumphant in the fields.

In happy time (the charioteer replies) 540

The bold Alcimedon now greets my eyes ;  
No Greek like him, the heav'nly steeds restrains !  
Or holds their fury in suspended reins :

Patroclus, while he liv'd, their rage could tame,  
But now Patroclus is an empty name ! 545

To thee I yield the seat, to thee resign  
The ruling charge : the task of fight be mine.

He said. Alcimedon, with active heat,  
Snatches the reins, and vaults into the seat.

His



His friend descends. The chief of Troy descry'd, 550  
And call'd Æneas fighting near his side.

Lo, to my sight beyond our hope restor'd,  
Achilles' car, deserted of its lord !

The glorious steeds our ready arms invite,  
Scarce their weak drivers guide them thro' the fight :  
Can such opponents stand, when we assail ? 556  
Unite thy force, my friend, and we prevail.

The son of Venus to the counsel yields ;  
Then o'er their backs they spread their solid shields ;  
With brass refulgent the broad surface shin'd, 560  
And thick bull-hides the spacious concave lin'd.  
Then Chromius follows, Aretus succeeds,  
Each hopes the conquest of the lofty steeds ;  
In vain, brave youths, with glorious hopes ye burn,  
In vain advance ! not fated to return. 565

Unmov'd Automedon attends the fight,  
Implores th' Eternal, and collects his might.  
Then turning to his friend, with dauntless mind :  
Oh keep the foaming couriers close behind !  
Full on my shoulders let their nostrils blow, 570  
For hard the fight, determin'd is the foe ;  
'Tis Hector comes ; and when he seeks the prize,  
War knows no mean : he wins it, or he dies.

Then thro' the field he sends his voice aloud,  
And calls th' Ajaces from the warring croud, 575  
With great Atrides. Hither turn, (he said),  
Turn, where distress demands immediate aid ;  
The dead, encircled by his friends, forego,  
And save the living from a fiercer foe.  
Unhelp'd we stand, unequal to engage 580  
The force of Hector, and Æneas' rage :  
Yet mighty as they are, my force to prove  
Is only mine : th' event belongs to Jove.

He spoke, and high the sounding jav'lin flung,  
Which pass'd the shield of Aretus the young ; 585  
It pierc'd his belt, emboss'd with curious art ;  
Then in the lower belly stuck the dart.  
As when a pond'rous axe descending full,  
Cleaves the broad forehead of some brawny bull ;  
Struck 'twixt the horns, he springs with many a bound,  
Then tumbling rolls enormous on the ground : 591

Thus



Thus fell the youth ; the air his soul receiv'd,  
And the spear trembled as his entrails heav'd.

Now at Automedon the Trojan foe  
Discharg'd his lance ; the meditated blow, 595  
Stooping, he shunn'd, the jav'lin idly fled,  
And hiss'd innoxious o'er the hero's head :  
Deep rooted in the ground, the forceful spear  
In long vibrations spent its fury there.  
With clashing faulchions now the chiefs had clos'd, 600  
But each brave Ajax heard, and interpos'd ;  
Nor longer Hector with his Trojans stood,  
But left their slain companion in his blood :  
His arms Automedon divests and cries,  
Accept, Patroclus, this mean sacrifice. 605  
Thus have I sooth'd my griefs, and thus have paid,  
Poor as it is, some off'ring to thy shade.

So looks the lion o'er a mangled boar,  
All grim with rage, and horrible with gore ;  
High on the chariot at one bound he sprung, 610  
And o'er his feat the bloody trophies hung.  
And now Minerva from the realms of air  
Descends impetuous, and renews the war ;  
For, pleas'd at length the Grecian arms to aid,  
The Lord of thunders sent the blue-ey'd maid. 615  
As when high Jove denouncing future woe,  
O'er the dark clouds extends his purple bow,  
(In sign of tempests from the troubled air,  
Or from the rage of man, destructive war),  
The drooping cattle dread th' impending skies, 620  
And from his half-till'd field the lab'rer flies.

In such a form the Goddess round her drew  
A livid cloud, and to the battle flew.  
Assuming Phœnix' shape, on earth she falls,  
And in his well-known voice to Sparta calls : 625  
And lies Achilles' friend, belov'd by all,  
A prey to dogs beneath the Trojan wall ?  
What shame to Greece for future times to tell,  
To thee the greatest in whose cause he fell !

O chieftain ! oh father ! (Atreus' son replies), 630  
Oh full of days ! by long experience wise !  
What more desires my soul, than here unmov'd  
To guard the body of the man I lov'd !

Ah



Ah would Minerva send me strength to rear  
This weary'd arm, and ward the storm of war!  
But Hector, like the rage of fire, we dread,  
And Jove's own glories blaze around his head.

635

Pleas'd to be first of all the pow'rs addrest,  
She breathes new vigour in her hero's breast,  
And fills with keen revenge, with fell despight,  
Desire of blood, and rage, and lust of fight.  
So burns the vengeful hornet, (soul all o'er),  
Repuls'd in vain, and thirsty still of gore;  
Bold son of Air and Heat, on angry wings  
Untam'd, untir'd, he turns, attacks, and stings.  
Fir'd with like ardour fierce Atrides flew,  
And sent his soul with ev'ry lance he threw.

640

645

There stood a Trojan, not unknown to fame,  
Eëtion's son, and Podes was his name;  
With riches honour'd, and with courage blest,  
By Hector lov'd, his comrade, and his guest:  
Through his broad belt the spear a passage found,  
And pond'rous as he falls, his arms resound.  
Sudden at Hector's side Apollo stood,  
Like Phænops, Asius' son, appear'd the God;  
(Asius the great, who held his wealthy reign  
In fair Abydos, by the rolling main).

650

655

Oh prince, (he cry'd), oh foremost once in fame?  
What Grecian now shall tremble at thy name?  
Dost thou at length to Menelæus yield,  
A chief once thought no terror of the field;  
Yet singly, now, the long-disputed prize  
He bears victorious, while our army flies.  
By the same arm illustrious Podes bled;  
The friend of Hector, unreveng'd, is dead!  
This heard, o'er Hector spreads a cloud of woe,  
Rage lifts his lance, and drives him on the foe.

660

665

But now th' Eternal shook his sable shield,  
That shaded Ide, and all the subject field,  
Beneath its ample verge. A rolling cloud  
Involv'd the mount; the thunder roar'd aloud;  
Th' affrighted hills from their foundations nod,  
And blaze beneath the lightnings of the God:  
At one regard of his all-seeing eye,  
The vanquish'd triumph, and the victors fly.

670

675  
Then



Then trembled Greece : the flight Peneleus led :  
 For as the brave Boeotian turn'd his head  
 To face the foe, Polydamus drew near,  
 And raz'd his shoulder with a shorten'd spear :  
 By Hector wounded, Leitus quits the plain, 680  
 Pierc'd thro' the wrist ; and raging with the pain,  
 Grasps his once formidable lance in vain.

As Hector follow'd, Idomen addrest  
 The flaming jav'lin to his manly breast ;  
 The brittle point before his corslet yields ; 685  
 Exulting Troy with clamour fills the fields :  
 High on his chariot as the Cretan stood,  
 The son of Priam whirl'd the missive wood ;  
 But erring from its aim, th' impetuous spear  
 Struck to the dust the 'squire and charioteer 690  
 Of martial Merion ; Coeranus his name,  
 Who left fair Lyctus for the fields of fame.  
 On foot bold Merion fought ; and now laid low,  
 Had grac'd the triumphs of his Trojan foe ;  
 But the brave 'squire the ready courfers brought, 695  
 And with his life his master's safety bought.  
 Between his cheek and ear the weapon went,  
 The teeth it shatter'd, and the tongue it rent.  
 Prone from the seat he tumbles to the plain ;  
 His dying hand forgets the falling rein : 700  
 This Merion reaches, bending from the car,  
 And urges to desert the hopeless war ;  
 Idomeneus consents ; the lash applies ;  
 And the swift chariot to the navy flies.

Nor Ajax less the will of heav'n descry'd, 705  
 And conquest shifting to the Trojan side,  
 Turn'd by the hand of Jove. Then thus begun,  
 To Atreus' seed, the godlike Telamon.

Alas ! who sees not Jove's almighty hand  
 Transfers the glory to the Trojan band ? 710  
 Whether the weak or strong discharge the dart,  
 He guides each arrow to a Grecian heart :  
 Not so our spears : incessant though they rain,  
 He suffers ev'ry lance to fall in vain.  
 Deserted of the God, yet let us try 715  
 What human strength and prudence can supply ;  
 If



If yet this honour'd corse, in triumph borne,  
May glad the fleets that hope not our return,  
Who tremble yet, scarce rescu'd from their fates,  
And still hear Hector thund'ring at their gates. 720

Some hero too must be dispatch'd to bear  
The mournful message to Pelides' ear;  
For sure he knows not, distant on the shore,  
His friend, his lov'd Patroclus, is no more.

But such a chief I spy not through the host: 725  
The men, the steeds, the armies, all are lost  
In gen'ral darkness—Lord of earth and air!

Oh King! oh Father! hear my humble pray'r;  
Dispel this cloud, the light of heav'n restore;  
Give me to see, and Ajax asks no more: 730

If Greece must perish, we thy will obey,  
But let us perish in the face of day!

With tears the hero spoke, and at his pray'r  
The God relenting, clear'd the clouded air;  
Forth burst the sun with all-enlightning ray; 735  
The blaze of armour flash'd against the day.

Now, now, Atrides! cast around thy sight,  
If yet Antilochus survives the fight,  
Let him to great Achilles' ear convey  
The fatal news—Atrides hastes away. 740

So turns the lion from the nightly fold,  
Though high in courage, and with hunger bold,  
Long gall'd by herdsmen, and long vex'd by hounds,  
Stiff with fatigue, and fretted sore with wounds;

The darts fly round him from an hundred hands, 745  
And the red terrors of the blazing brands:  
Till late, reluctant at the dawn of day

Sour he departs, and quits th' untasted prey.  
So mov'd Atrides from his dang'rous place,  
With weary limbs, but with unwilling pace; 750

The foe, he fear'd, might yet Patroclus gain,  
And much admonish'd, much adjur'd his train.

Oh guard these relics to your charge consign'd,  
And bear the merits of the dead in mind;  
How skill'd he was in each obliging art; 755

The mildest manners, and the gentlest heart:  
He was, alas! but fate decreed his end;  
In death a hero, as in life a friend!

So



So parts the chief; from rank to rank he flew,  
And round on all sides sent his piercing view. 760

As the bold bird, endu'd with sharpest eye  
Of all that wing the mid ærial sky:  
The sacred eagle, from his walks above  
Looks down, and sees the distant thicket move;  
Then stoops, and fousing on the quiv'ring hare, 765  
Snatches his life amid the clouds of air;

Not with less quickness, his exerted sight  
Pass'd this and that way through the ranks of fight:  
Till on the left the chief he sought he found,  
Cheering his men, and spreading deaths around. 770

To him the king: Belov'd of Jove! draw near,  
For sadder tidings never touch'd thy ear;  
Thy eyes have witness'd, what a fatal turn!  
How Ilion triumphs, and th' Achaïans mourn;  
This is not all: Patroclus, on the shore 775

Now pale and dead, shall succour Greece no more.  
Fly to the fleet, this instant fly, and tell  
The sad Achilles, how his lov'd one fell:  
He too may haste the naked corpse to gain;  
The arms are Hector's, who despoil'd the slain. 780

The youthful warrior heard with silent woe,  
From his fair eyes the tears began to flow;  
Big with the mighty grief, he strove to say  
What sorrow dictates, but no word found way.  
To brave Laodocus his arms he flung, 785  
Who near him wheeling drove his steeds along;  
Then ran, the mournful message to impart,  
With tearful eyes, and with dejected heart.

Swift fled the youth: nor Menelaüs stands  
(Tho' sore distress'd) to aid the Pylian bands: 790  
But bids bold Thrasymede those troops sustain;  
Himself returns to his Patroclus slain.

Gone is Antilochus, (the hero said),  
But hope not, warriors, for Achilles' aid:  
Though fierce his rage, unbounded be his woe, 795  
Unarm'd, he fights not with the Trojan foe.

'Tis in our hands alone our hopes remain,  
'Tis our own vigour must the dead regain;  
And save ourselves, while with impetuous heat  
Troy pours along, and this way rolls our fate. 800  
'Tis



'Tis well, (said Ajax), be it then thy care,  
With Merion's aid, the weighty corse to rear;  
Myself and my bold brother will sustain  
The shock of Hector and his charging train:  
Nor fear we armies, fighting side by side; 805  
What Troy can dare, we have already try'd,  
Have try'd it, and have stood. The hero said.

High from the ground the warriors heave the dead.  
A gen'ral clamour rises at the fight:  
Loud shout the Trojans, and renew the fight. 810

Not fiercer rush along the gloomy wood,  
With rage insatiate and with thirst of blood,  
Voracious hounds, that many a length before  
Their furious hunters, drive the wounded boar;  
But if the savage turns his glaring eye, 815  
They howl aloof, and round the forest fly.

Thus on retreating Greece the Trojans pour,  
Wave their thick faulchions, and their jav'lines show'r:  
But Ajax turning, to their fears they yield,  
All pale they tremble, and forsake the field. 820

While thus aloft the hero's corse they bear,  
Behind them rages all the storm of war;  
Confusion, tumult, horror, o'er the throng  
Of men, steeds, chariots, urg'd the rout along:  
Less fierce the winds with rising flames conspire, 825  
To whelm some city under waves of fire;

Now sink in gloomy clouds the proud abodes;  
Now crack the blazing temples of the Gods;  
The rumbling torrent through the ruin rolls,  
And sheets of smoke mount heavy to the poles. 830

The heroes sweat beneath their honour'd load:  
As when two mules along the rugged road,  
From the steep mountain with exerted strength  
Drag some vast beam, or mast's unwieldy length;  
Inly they groan, big drops of sweat distil, 835

Th' enormous timber lumb'ring down the hill:  
So these ——— Behind the bulk of Ajax stands,  
And breaks the torrent of the rushing bands.  
Thus when a river swell'd with sudden rains,  
Spreads his broad waters o'er the level plains, 840  
Some interposing hill the stream divides,  
And breaks its force, and turns the winding tides.



Still close they follow, close the rear engage ;  
Æneas storms, and Hector foams with rage :  
While Greece a heavy, thick retreat maintains, 845  
Wedg'd in one body like a flight of cranes,  
That shriek incessant while the falcon hung  
High on pois'd pinions, threats their callow young.  
So from the Trojan chiefs the Grecians fly,  
Such the wild terror, and the mingled cry : 850  
Within, without the trench, and all the way,  
Strow'd in bright heaps, their arms and armour lay ;  
Such horror Jove impress'd ! yet still proceeds  
The work of death, and still the battle bleeds.

THE



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K XVIII.

### T H E A R G U M E N T.

The grief of Achilles, and new armour made him by  
Vulcan.

*The news of the death of Patroclus is brought to Achilles by Antilochus. Thetis hearing his lamentations, comes with all her sea-nymphs to comfort him. The speeches of the mother and son on this occasion. Iris appears to Achilles by the command of Juno, and orders him to show himself at the head of the entrenchments. The sight of him turns the fortune of the day, and the body of Patroclus is carried off by the Greeks. The Trojans call a council, where Hector and Polydamas disagree in their opinions; but the advice of the former prevails, to remain encamped in the field: the grief of Achilles over the body of Patroclus.*

*Thetis goes to the palace of Vulcan to obtain new arms for her son. The description of the wonderful works of Vulcan; and lastly, that noble one of the shield of Achilles.*

*The latter part of the nine and twentieth day, and the night ensuing, take up this book. The scene is at Achilles's tent on the sea-shore, from whence it changes to the palace of Vulcan.*

**T**HUS like the rage of fire the combat burns,  
And now it rises, now it sinks by turns.  
Meanwhile, where Hellespont's broad waters flow,  
Stood Nestor's son, the messenger of woe:



There sat Achilles, shaded by his sails, 5  
 On hoisted yards extended to the gales ;  
 Pensive he sat ; for all that fate design'd  
 Rose in sad prospect to his boding mind.

Thus to his soul he said : Ah ! what constrains 10  
 The Greeks, late victors, now to quit the plains ?  
 Is this the day, which heav'n so long ago  
 Ordain'd, to sink me with the weight of woe ?  
 (So Thetis warn'd), when by a Trojan hand,  
 The bravest of the Myrmidonian band  
 Should lose the light ? Fulfill'd is that decree ; 15  
 Fall'n is the warrior, and Patroclus he !

In vain I charg'd him soon to quit the plain,  
 And warn'd to shun Hecstorean force in vain !

Thus while he thinks, Antilochus appears, 20  
 And tells the melancholy tale with tears.  
 Sad tidings, son of Peleus ! thou must hear ;  
 And wretched I, th' unwilling messenger !  
 Dead is Patroclus ! for his corse they fight ;  
 His naked corse ; his arms are Hector's right.

A sudden horror shot thro' all the chief, 25  
 And wrapt his senses in the cloud of grief ;  
 Cast on the ground, with furious hands he spread  
 The scorching ashes o'er his graceful head ;  
 His purple garments, and his golden hairs,  
 Those he deforms with dust, and these he tears : 30  
 On the hard soil his groaning breast he threw,  
 And roll'd and grovel'd, as to earth he grew.  
 The virgin captives, with disorder'd charms,  
 (Won by his own, or by Patroclus' arms),  
 Rush'd from the tents with cries ; and gath'ring round,  
 Beat their white breasts, and fainted on the ground : 36  
 While Nestor's son sustains a manlier part,  
 And mourns the warrior with a warrior's heart ;  
 Hangs on his arms, amidst his frantic woe,  
 And oft prevents the meditated blow. 40

Far in the deep abysses of the main,  
 With hoary Nereus, and the wat'ry train,  
 The mother-goddess from her crystal throne  
 Heard his loud cries, and answer'd groan for groan.  
 The circling Nereids with their mistress weep, 45  
 And all the sea-green sisters of the deep.

Thalia,



Thalia, Glauce, (ev'ry wat'ry name),  
 Nesæa mild, and silver Spio came :  
 Cymothoë and Cymodoce were nigh,  
 And the blue languish of soft Alia's eye. 50  
 Their locks Actæa and Limnoria rear,  
 Then Proto, Doris, Panope appear,  
 Thoa, Pherusa, Doto, Melita ;  
 Agave gentle, and Amphithoë gay :  
 Next Callianira, Callianassa show 55  
 Their sister looks ; Dexamene the slow,  
 And swift Dynamene, now cut the tides :  
 Iæra now the verdant wave divides :  
 Nemertes with Apseudes lifts the head,  
 Bright Galatea quits her pearly bed : 60  
 These Orythia, Clymene, attend,  
 Mæra, Amphinome, the train extend ;  
 And black Janira, and Janassa fair,  
 And Amatheia with her amber hair.  
 All these, and all that deep in ocean held 65  
 Their sacred seats, the glimm'ring grotto fill'd ;  
 Each beat her iv'ry breast with silent woe,  
 Till Thetis' sorrows thus began to flow :  
 Hear me, and judge, ye sisters of the main !  
 How just a cause has Thetis to complain ? 70  
 How wretched, were I mortal, were my fate !  
 How more than wretched in th' immortal state !  
 Sprung from my bed, a godlike hero came,  
 The bravest far that ever bore the name ;  
 Like some fair olive, by my careful hand 75  
 He grew, he flourish'd, and adorn'd the land :  
 To Troy I sent him ; but the fates ordain  
 He never, never must return again.  
 So short a space the light of heav'n to view,  
 So short alas ! and fill'd with anguish too. 80  
 Hear how his sorrows echo through the shore !  
 I cannot ease them, but I must deplore ;  
 I go at least to bear a tender part,  
 And mourn my lov'd-one with a mother's heart.  
 She said, and left the caverns of the main, 85  
 All bath'd in tears ; the melancholy train  
 Attend her way. Wide-opening part the tides,  
 While the long pomp the silver wave divides.



Approaching now, they touch'd the Trojan land ;  
 Then, two by two, ascended up the strand. 90  
 Th' immortal mother standing close beside  
 Her mournful offspring, to his sighs reply'd ;  
 Along the coast their mingled clamours ran,  
 And thus the silver-footed dame began :

Why mourns my son ? thy late preferr'd request 95  
 The God has granted, and the Greeks distress :  
 Why mourns my son ? thy anguish let me share,  
 Reveal the cause, and trust a parent's care.

He, deeply groaning——To this cureless grief  
 Not ev'n the Thund'rer's favour brings relief. 100

Patroclus——Ah !——say, Goddess, can I boast  
 A pleasure now ? revenge itself is lost ;  
 Patroclus, lov'd of all my martial train,  
 Beyond mankind, beyond myself, is slain !  
 Lost are those arms the Gods themselves bestow'd 105  
 On Peleus ; Hector bears the glorious load.

Curs'd be that day, when all the pow'rs above  
 Thy charms submitted to a mortal love :  
 Oh hadst thou still, a sister of the main,  
 Pursu'd the pleasures of the wat'ry reign ; 110  
 And happier Peleus, less ambitious, led  
 A mortal beauty to his equal bed !

Ere the sad fruit of thy unhappy womb  
 Had caus'd such sorrows past, and woes to come,  
 For soon, alas ! that wretched offspring slain, 115  
 New woes, new sorrows shall create again.

'Tis not in fate th' alternate now to give ;  
 Patroclus dead, Achilles hates to live.  
 Let me revenge it on proud Hector's heart,  
 Let his last spirit smoke upon my dart ; 120  
 On these conditions I will breathe : till then,  
 I blush to walk among the race of men.

A flood of tears, at this, the Goddess shed,  
 Ah then, I see thee dying, see thee dead !  
 When Hector falls, thou dy'st. Let Hector die, 125  
 And let me fall ! (Achilles made reply.)  
 Far lies Patroclus from his native plain !  
 He fell, and falling, wish'd my aid in vain.  
 Ah then, since from this miserable day  
 I cast all hope of my return away, 130  
 Since,



Since, unreveng'd, a hundred ghosts demand  
 The fate of Hector from Achilles' hand ;  
 Since here, for brutal courage far renown'd,  
 I live an idle burden to the ground,  
 (Others in council fam'd for nobler skill,  
 135 More useful to preserve, than I to kill),  
 Let me—But oh ! ye gracious pow'rs above !  
 Wrath and revenge from men and Gods remove :  
 Far, far too dear to ev'ry mortal breast,  
 Sweet to the soul, as honey to the taste ;  
 140 Gath'ring like vapours of a noxious kind  
 From fiery blood, and dark'ning all the mind.  
 Me Agamemnon urg'd to deadly hate ;  
 'Tis past—I quell it ; I resign to fate ;  
 Yes—I will meet the murd'rer of my friend ;  
 145 Or (if the Gods ordain it) meet my end.  
 The stroke of fate the bravest cannot shun :  
 The great Alcides, Jove's unequall'd son,  
 To Juno's hate at length resign'd his breath,  
 And sunk the victim of all-conqu'ring death.  
 150 So shall Achilles fall ! stretch'd pale and dead,  
 No more the Grecian hope, or Trojan dread !  
 Let me, this instant, rush into the fields,  
 And reap what glory life's short harvest yields.  
 Shall I not force some widow'd dame to tear  
 155 With frantic hands her long dishevell'd hair ?  
 Shall I not force her breast to heave with sighs,  
 And the soft tears to trickle from her eyes !  
 Yes, I shall give the fair those mournful charms—  
 In vain you hold me—Hence ! my arms, my arms !  
 160 Soon shall the sanguine torrent spread so wide,  
 That all shall know, Achilles swells the tide.  
 My son, (cœrulean Thetis made reply,  
 To fate submitting with a secret sigh),  
 The host to succour, and thy friends to save,  
 165 Is worthy thee ; the duty of the brave.  
 But canst thou, naked, issue to the plains ?  
 Thy radiant arms the Trojan foe detains.  
 Insulting Hector bears the spoils on high,  
 But vainly glories, for his fate is nigh.  
 170 Yet, yet a while, thy gen'rous ardour fly ;  
 Assur'd, I meet thee at the dawn of day,  
 Charg'd



Charg'd with refulgent arms, (a glorious load),  
Vulcanian arms, the labour of a God.

Then turning to the daughters of the main, 175  
The Goddess thus dismiss'd her azure train :

Ye sister Nereids ! to your deeps descend ;  
Haste, and our father's sacred seat attend ;  
I go to find the architect divine,

Where vast Olympus' starry summits shine : 180

So tell our hoary sire — This charge she gave :

The sea-green sisters plunge beneath the wave :

Thetis once more ascends the bless'd abodes,

And treads the brazen threshold of the Gods.

And now the Greeks from furious Hector's force, 185  
Urge to broad Hellespont their headlong course :

Nor yet their chiefs Patroclus' body bore

Safe through the tempest to the tented shore.

The horse, the foot, with equal fury join'd,

Pour'd on the rear, and thunder'd close behind ; 190

And like a flame through fields of ripen'd corn,

The rage of Hector o'er the ranks was borne.

Thrice the slain hero by the foot he drew ;

Thrice to the skies the Trojan clamours flew :

As oft th' Ajaces his assault sustain ; 195

But check'd, he turns ; repuls'd, attacks again.

With fiercer shouts his ling'ring troops he fires,

Nor yields a step, nor from his post retires ;

So watchful shepherds strive to force, in vain,

The hungry lion from a carcase slain. 200

Ev'n yet Patroclus had he borne away,

And all the glories of th' extended day :

Had not high Juno, from the realms of air,

Secret, dispatch'd her trusty messenger.

The various Goddesses of the show'ry bow, 205

Shot in a whirlwind to the shore below ;

To great Achilles at his ships she came,

And thus began the many colour'd dame :

Rise, son of Peleus ! rise divinely brave !

Assist the combat, and Patroclus save ; 210

For him the slaughter to the fleet they spread,

And fall by mutual wounds around the dead.

To drag him back to Troy the foe contends ;

Nor with his death the rage of Hector ends ;



A prey to dogs he dooms the corse to lie, 215  
And marks the place to fix his head on high,  
Rise, and prevent (if yet you think of fame)  
Thy friend's disgrace, thy own eternal shame?

Who sends thee, Goddess! from th' æthereal skies?  
Achilles thus. And Iris thus replies: 220

I come, Pelides! from the queen of Jove,  
Th' immortal empress of the realms above;  
Unknown to him who sits remote on high,  
Unknown to all the synod of the sky.

Thou com'st in vain, he cries, (with fury warm'd), 225  
Arms I have none, and can I fight unarm'd?

Unwilling as I am, of force I stay,  
Till Thetis bring me at the dawn of day  
Vulcanian arms; what other can I wield;  
Except the mighty Telamonian shield? 230

That, in my friend's defence, has Ajax spread,  
While his strong lance around him heaps the dead:  
The gallant chief defends Mœnetius' son,  
And does, what his Achilles should have done.

Thy want of arms (said Iris) well we know, 235  
But though unarm'd, yet clad in terrors, go!  
Let but Achilles o'er yon trench appear;  
Proud Troy shall tremble, and consent to fear:  
Greece, from one glance of that tremendous eye,  
Shall take new courage, and disdain to fly. 240

She spoke, and pass'd in air. The hero rose;  
Her ægis Pallas o'er his shoulder throws;  
Around his brows a golden cloud she spread;  
A stream of glory flam'd above his head.  
As when from some beleaguer'd town arise 245

The smokes, high curling to the shaded skies;  
(Seen from some island, o'er the main afar,  
When men distress'd hang out the sign of war);  
Soon as the sun in ocean hides his rays,  
Thick on the hills the flaming beacons blaze; 250

With long-projected beams the seas are bright,  
And heav'n's high arch reflect the ruddy light;  
So from Achilles' head the splendors rise,  
Reflecting blaze on blaze against the skies.

Forth march'd the chief, and distant from the croud,  
High on the rampart rais'd his voice aloud; 256

With



With her own shout Minerva swells the sound ;  
 Troy starts astonish'd, and the shores rebound,  
 As the loud trumpet's brazen mouth from far  
 With shrilling clangour sounds th' alarm of war, 260  
 Struck from the walls, the echoes float on high,  
 And the round bulwarks and thick tow'rs reply ;  
 So high his brazen voice the hero rear'd :  
 Hosts drop their arms, and trembled as they heard ;  
 And back the chariots roll, and courfers bound, 265  
 And steeds and men lie mingled on the ground.  
 Aghast they see the living lightnings play,  
 And turn their eye-balls from the flashing ray.  
 Thrice from the trench his dreadful voice he rais'd ;  
 And thrice they fled, confounded and amaz'd. 270  
 Twelve in the tumult wedg'd, untimely rush'd  
 On their own spears, by their own chariots crush'd :  
 While shielded from the darts, the Greeks obtain  
 The long-contended carcase of the slain.

A lofty bier the breathless warrior bears ; 275  
 Around, his sad companions melt in tears.  
 But chief Achilles, bending down his head,  
 Pours unavailing sorrows o'er the dead,  
 Whom late triumphant with his steeds and car,  
 He sent refulgent to the field of war ; 280  
 (Unhappy change !) ; now senseless, pale, he found  
 Stretch'd forth, and gash'd with many a gaping wound.

Mean-time, unwearied with his heav'nly way,  
 In ocean's waves th' unwilling light of day  
 Quench'd his red orb, at Juno's high command, 285  
 And from their labours eas'd th' Achaian band.  
 The frightened Trojans (panting from the war  
 Their steeds unharnas'd from the weary car)  
 A sudden council call'd : each chief appear'd  
 In haste, and standing ; for to sit they fear'd. 290  
 'Twas now no season for prolong'd debate ;  
 They saw Achilles, and in him their fate.  
 Silent they stood : Polydamas at last,  
 Skill'd to discern the future by the past,  
 The son of Panthus, thus express'd his fears ; 295  
 (The friend of Hector, and of equal years :  
 The self-same night to both a being gave,  
 One wise in council, one in action brave.)



In free debate, my friends, your sentence speak  
 For me, I move, before the morning break, 300  
 To raise our camp : too dang'rous here our post,  
 Far from Troy's walls, and on a naked coast.  
 I deem'd not Greece so dreadful, while engag'd  
 In mutual feuds, her king and hero rag'd ;  
 Then, while we hop'd our armies might prevail, 305  
 We boldly camp'd beside a thousand sail.  
 I dread Pelides now : his rage of mind  
 Not long continues to the shores confin'd,  
 Nor to the fields, where long in equal fray  
 Contending nations won and lost the day, 310  
 For Troy, for Troy shall henceforth be the strife,  
 And the hard contest not for fame but life.  
 Haste then to Ilion, while the fav'ring night  
 Detains those terrors, keeps that arm from fight ;  
 If but the morrow's sun behold us here, 315  
 That arm, those terrors, we shall feel, not fear ;  
 And hearts that now disdain, shall leap with joy,  
 If heav'n permit them then to enter Troy,  
 Let not my fatal prophecy be true,  
 Nor what I tremble but to think ensue. 320  
 Whatever be our fate, yet let us try  
 What force of thought and reason can supply ;  
 Let us on counsel for our guard depend ;  
 The town, her gates and bulwarks shall defend.  
 When morning dawns, our well-appointed pow'rs, 325  
 Array'd in arms, shall line the lofty tow'rs.  
 Let the fierce hero then, when fury calls,  
 Vent his mad vengeance on our rocky walls,  
 Or fetch a thousand circles round the plain,  
 Till his spent courfers seek the fleet again ; 330  
 So may his rage be tir'd, and labour'd down ;  
 And dogs shall tear him ere he sack the town.  
 Return ? (said Hector, fir'd with stern disdain) ;  
 What, coop whole armies in our walls again ?  
 Was't not enough, ye valiant warriors, say, 335  
 Nine years imprison'd in those tow'rs ye lay !  
 Wide o'er the world was Ilion fam'd of old  
 For brags exhaustless, and for mines of gold :  
 But while inglorious in her walls we staid,  
 Sunk were her treasures, and her stores decay'd ; 340  
 The



The Phrygians now her scatter'd spoils enjoy,  
 And proud Mæonia wastes the fruits of Troy.  
 Great Jove at length my arms to conquest calls,  
 And shuts the Grecians in their wooden walls :  
 Dar'st thou dispirit whom the Gods incite ? 345  
 Flies any Trojan ? I shall stop his flight.  
 To better counsel then attention lend ;  
 Take due refreshment, and the watch attend.  
 If there be one whose riches cost him care,  
 Forth let him bring them for the troops to share ;  
 'Tis better gen'rously bestow'd on those, 351  
 Than left the plunder of our country's foes.  
 Soon as the morn the purple orient warms,  
 Fierce on yon navy will we pour our arms.  
 If great Achilles rise in all his might, 355  
 His be the danger : I shall stand the fight.  
 Honour, ye Gods ! or let me gain or give ;  
 And live he glorious, whoso'er shall live !  
 Mars is our common Lord, alike to all ;  
 And oft the victor triumphs, but to fall. 360

The shouting host in loud applauses join'd :  
 So Pallas robb'd the many of their mind ;  
 To their own sense condemn'd, and left to chuse  
 The worst advice, the better to refuse,  
 While the long Night extends her sable reign, 365  
 Around Patroclus mourn'd the Grecian train.  
 Stern in superior grief Pelides stood ;  
 Those slaughter'd arms, so us'd to bathe in blood,  
 Now clasp his clay cold limbs : then gushing start  
 The tears, and sighs burst from his swelling heart.  
 The lion thus, with dreadful anguish stung, 371  
 Roars thro' the desert, and demands his young :  
 When the grim savage, to his rifled den  
 Too late returning, snuffs the track of men,  
 And o'er the vales and o'er the forest bounds ; 375  
 His clam'rous grief the bellowing wood resounds.  
 So grieves Achilles ; and impetuous, vents  
 To all his Myrmidons, his loud laments.

In what vain promise, Gods ! did I engage,  
 When, to console Menœtius' feeble age, 380  
 I vow'd his much-lov'd offspring to restore,  
 Charg'd with rich spoils, to sail Opuntia's shore ?

But



But mighty Jove cuts short, with just disdain,  
 The long, long views of poor, designing man!  
 One fate the warrior and the friend shall strike, 385  
 And Troy's black sands must drink our blood alike:  
 Me too a wretched mother shall deplore,  
 An aged father never see me more!  
 Yet, my Patroclus! yet a space I stay,  
 Then swift pursue thee on the darksome way. 390  
 Ere thy dear relics in the grave are laid,  
 Shall Hector's head be offer'd to thy shade;  
 That, with his arms, shall hang before thy shrine;  
 And twelve the noblest of the Trojan line,  
 Sacred to vengeance, by this hand expire; 395  
 Their lives effus'd around thy flaming pyre.  
 Thus let me lie till then! thus, closely prest,  
 Bathe thy cold face, and sob upon thy breast!  
 While Trojan captives here thy mourners stay,  
 Weep all the night, and murmur all the day: 400  
 Spoils of my arms, and thine; when, waiving wide,  
 Our swords kept time, and conquer'd side by side.

He spoke, and bid the sad attendants round,  
 Cleanse the pale corse, and wash each honour'd wound.  
 A massy caldron, of stupendous frame, 405  
 They brought, and plac'd it o'er the rising flame:  
 Then heap the lighted wood; the flame divides  
 Beneath the vase, and climbs around the sides:  
 In its wide womb they pour the rushing stream;  
 The boiling water bubbles to the brim. 410  
 The body then they bathe with pious toil,  
 Embalm the wounds, anoint the limbs with oil,  
 High on a bed of state extended laid,  
 And decent cover'd with a linen shade;  
 Last o'er the dead the milk-white veil they threw; 415  
 That done, their sorrows and their sighs renew.

Mean-while to Juno, in the realms above,  
 His wife and sister, spoke almighty Jove.  
 At last thy will prevails: great Peleus' son  
 Rises in arms: such grace thy Greeks have won. 420  
 Say, (for I know not), is their race divine,  
 And thou the mother of that martial line?

What words are these? (th' imperial dame replies,  
 While anger flash'd from her majestic eyes).



Succour like this a mortal arm might lend, 425  
 And such success mere human wit attend:  
 And shall not I, the second pow'r above,  
 Heav'n's queen, and consort of the thund'ring Jove;  
 Say, shall not I, one nation's fate command,  
 Not wreak my vengeance on one guilty land? 430

So they. Mean-while the silver-footed dame  
 Reach'd the Vulcanian dome, eternal frame!  
 High-eminent amid the works divine,  
 Where heav'n's far-beaming brazen mansions shine.  
 There the lame architect the Goddess found, 435  
 Obscure in smoke his forges flaming round,  
 While bath'd in sweat from fire to fire he flew;  
 And puffing loud, the roaring bellows blew.  
 That day no common task his labour claim'd:  
 Full twenty tripods for his hall he fram'd, 440  
 That plac'd on living wheels of massy gold,  
 (Wondrous to tell), instinct with spirit roll'd  
 From place to place, around the blest'd abodes,  
 Self-mov'd, obedient to the beck of Gods:  
 For their fair handles now, o'erwrought with flowers, 445  
 In molds prepar'd, the glowing ore he pours.  
 Just as responsive to his thought the frame,  
 Stood prompt to move, the azure Goddess came:  
 Charis, his spouse, a grace divinely fair,  
 (With purple fillets round her braided hair), 450  
 Observ'd her ent'ring; her soft hand she press'd,  
 And smiling, thus the wat'ry queen address'd:

What, Goddess! this unusual favour draws?  
 All hail, and welcome! whatsoe'er the cause:  
 Till now a stranger, in a happy hour, 455  
 Approach, and taste the dainties of the bow'r.

High on a throne, with stars of silver grac'd,  
 And various artifice, the queen she plac'd;  
 A footstool at her feet: then calling, said,  
 Vulcan, draw near, 'tis Thetis asks your aid. 460  
 Thetis, (reply'd the God), our pow'rs may claim,  
 An ever-dear, an ever-honour'd name!

When my proud mother hurl'd me from the sky,  
 (My awkward form, it seems, displeas'd her eye),  
 She, and Eurynome, my griefs redrest, 546  
 And soft receiv'd me on their silver breast.

Ev'n



Ev'n then, these arts employ'd my infant thought :  
 Chains, bracelets, pendants, all their toys I wrought.  
 Nine years kept secret in the dark abode,  
 Secure I lay conceal'd from man and God : 470  
 Deep in a cavern'd rock my days were led ;  
 The rushing ocean murmur'd o'er my head.  
 Now since her presence glads our mansion, say,  
 For such desert what service can I pay ?  
 Vouchsafe, O Thetis ! at our board to share 475  
 The genial rites, and hospitable fare ;  
 While I the labours of the forge forego,  
 And bid the roaring bellows cease to blow.  
 Then from his anvil the lame artist rose ;  
 Wide with distorted legs oblique he goes, 480  
 And stills the bellows, and (in order laid)  
 Locks in their chests his instruments of trade.  
 Then with a sponge the sooty workman drest  
 His brawny arms imbrown'd, and hairy breast.  
 With his huge sceptre grac'd, and red attire, 485  
 Came halting forth the sov'reign of the fire :  
 The monarch's steps two female forms uphold,  
 That mov'd and breath'd, in animated gold :  
 To whom was voice, and sense, and science giv'n  
 Of works divine (such wonders are in heav'n !) 490  
 On these supported, with unequal gait,  
 He reach'd the throne where pensive Thetis sat :  
 There plac'd beside her on the shining frame,  
 He thus address'd the silver footed dame :

Thee, welcome Goddess ! what occasion calls 495  
 (So long a stranger) to these honour'd walls ?  
 'Tis thine, fair Thetis, the command to lay,  
 And Vulcan's joy and duty to obey.

To whom the mournful mother thus replies,  
 (The crystal drops stood trembling in her eyes). 500  
 Oh Vulcan ! say, was ever breast divine  
 So pierc'd with sorrows, so o'erwhelm'd as mine ?  
 Of all the Goddesses, did Jove prepare  
 For Thetis only such a weight of care ?  
 I, only I, of all the wat'ry race, 505  
 By force subjected to a man's embrace,  
 Who, sinking now with age and sorrow pays  
 The mighty fine impos'd on length of days.



Sprung from my bed a godlike hero came,  
 The bravest sure that ever bore the name; 510  
 Like some fair plant beneath my careful hand  
 He grew, he flourish'd, and he grac'd the land:  
 To Troy I sent him, but his native shore  
 Never, ah never, shall receive him more;  
 (Ev'n while he lives, he wastes with secret woe); 515  
 Nor I, a Goddess, can retard the blow!

Robb'd of the prize the Grecian suffrage gave,  
 The king of nations forc'd his royal slave:  
 For this he griev'd; and till the Greeks oppress'd,  
 Requir'd his arm, he sorrow'd unredress'd. 520

Large gifts they promise, and their elders send;  
 In vain——He arms not, but permits his friend,  
 His arms, his steeds, his forces to employ;  
 He marches, combats, almost conquers Troy:  
 Then slain by Phœbus, (Hector had the name), 525  
 At once resigns his armour, life, and fame.

But thou, in pity, by my pray'r be won:  
 Grace with immortal arms this short-liv'd son,  
 And to the field in martial pomp restore,  
 To shine with glory, till he shines no more! 530

To her the artist-god: Thy griefs resign,  
 Secure, what Vulcan can, is ever thine.  
 O could I hide him from the fates as well,  
 Or with these hands the cruel stroke repel,  
 As I shall forge most envy'd arms, the gaze 535  
 Of wond'ring ages, and the world's amaze!

Thus having said, the father of the fires  
 To the black labours of his forge retires,  
 Soon as he bade them blow, the bellows turn'd  
 Their iron mouths; and where the furnace burn'd, 540  
 Resounding breath'd: At once the blast expires,

And twenty forges catch at once the fires:  
 Just as the God directs, now loud, now low,  
 They raise a tempest, or they gently blow.  
 In hissing flames huge silver-bars are roll'd, 545  
 And stubborn brass, and tin, and solid gold:  
 Before, deep fix'd, th' eternal anvils stand:

The pond'rous hammer loads his better hand;  
 His left with tongs turns the vex'd metal round, 549  
 And thick, strong strokes, the doubling vaults rebound.

Then



Then first he form'd th' immense and solid shield ;  
 Rich, various artifice emblaz'd the field ;  
 Its utmost verge a threefold circle bound ;  
 A silver chain suspends the massy round ;  
 Five ample plates the broad expanse compose, 555  
 And godlike labours on the surface rose.  
 There shone the image of the master-mind ;  
 There earth, there heav'n, there ocean he design'd ;  
 Th' unwearied sun, the moon completely round ;  
 The starry lights that heav'n's high convex crown'd ;  
 The Pleiads, Hyads, with the northern team ; 561  
 And great Orion's more refulgent beam ;  
 To which, around the axle of the sky,  
 The Bear revolving, points his golden eye,  
 Still shines exalted on th' æthereal plain, 565  
 Nor bathes his blazing forehead in the main.

Two cities radiant on the shield appear,  
 The image one of peace, and one of war.  
 Here sacred pomp, and genial feast delight,  
 And solemn dance, and Hymeneal rite ; 570  
 Along the street the new-made brides are led,  
 With torches flaming to the nuptial bed :  
 The youthful dancers in a circle bound  
 To the soft flute, and cittern's silver sound :  
 Thro' the fair streets, the matrons in a row, 575  
 Stand in their porches, and enjoy the show.

There, in the forum swarm a num'rous train ;  
 The subject of debate, a townsman slain :  
 One pleads the fine discharg'd, which one deny'd,  
 And bade the public and the laws decide : 580  
 The witness is produc'd on either hand ;  
 For this, or that, the partial people stand :  
 Th' appointed heralds still the noisy bands,  
 And form a ring, with sceptres in their hands ;  
 On seats of stone, within the sacred place, 585  
 The rev'rend elders nodded o'er the case ;  
 Alternate, each th' attesting sceptre took,  
 And rising solemn, each his sentence spoke.  
 Two golden talents lay amidst, in sight,  
 The prize of him who best adjudg'd the right. 590

Another part (a prospect diff'ring far)  
 Glow'd with refulgent arms, and horrid war.



Two mighty hosts a leaguer'd town embrace,  
 And one would pillage, one would burn the place.  
 Mean-time the townsmen, arm'd with silent care, 575  
 A secret ambush on the foe prepare:

Their wives, their children, and the watchful band  
 Of trembling parents on the turrets stand.

They march; by Pallas and by Mars made bold:  
 Gold were the Gods, their radiant garments gold, 600  
 And gold their armour: these the squadron led,  
 August, divine, superior by the head!

A place for ambush fit they found, and stood  
 Cover'd with shields, beside a silver flood.

Two spies at distance lurk, and watchful seem 605  
 If sheep or oxen seek the winding stream.

Soon the white flocks proceeded o'er the plains,  
 And steers slow-moving, and two shepherd-swains;  
 Behind them, piping on their reeds, they go,  
 Nor fear an ambush, nor suspect a foe, 610

In arms the glitt'ring squadron rising round,  
 Rush sudden; hills of slaughter heap the ground,  
 Whole flocks and herds lie bleeding on the plains,  
 And, all amidst them, dead, the shepherd swains!  
 The bellowing oxen the besiegers hear; 615

They rise, take horse, approach, and meet the war;  
 They fight, they fall, beside the silver flood;  
 The waving silver seem'd to blush with blood.

There tumult, there contention stood confest;  
 One rear'd a dagger at a captive's breast, 620  
 One held a living foe that freshly bled

With new-made wounds; another dragg'd a dead;  
 Now here, now there, the carcases they tore:

Fate stalk'd amidst them, grim with human gore.  
 And the whole war came out, and met the eye; 625  
 And each bold figure seem'd to live or die.

A field deep furrow'd, next the God design'd,  
 The third time labour'd by the sweating hind;  
 The shining shares full many ploughmen guide,  
 And turn their crooked yokes on ev'ry side. 630

Still as at either end they wheel around,  
 The master meets them with his goblet crown'd;  
 The hearty draught rewards, renews their toil,  
 Then back the turning ploughshares cleave the soil:

Behind,



Book XVIII. HOMER'S ILIAD. 367

Behind, the rising earth, in ridges roll'd; 635  
And sable look'd, tho' form'd of molten gold.

Another field rose high with waving grain;  
With bending sickles stand the reaper-train :  
Here stretch'd in ranks the levell'd swarths are found ;  
Sheaves heap'd on sheaves, here thicken up the ground  
With sweeping stroke the mowers strow the lands ; 641  
The gath'ers follow, and collect in bands :  
And last the children, in whose arms are borne  
(Too short to gripe them) the brown sheaves of corn.  
The rustic monarch of the field descries 645  
With silent glee, the heaps around him rise.  
A ready banquet on the turf is laid,  
Beneath an ample oak's expanded shade.

The victim-ox the sturdy youth prepare ;  
The reapers due repast, the womens care. 650

Next, ripe in yellow gold, a vineyard shines,  
Bent with the pond'rous harvest of its vines ;  
A deeper dye the dangling clusters show,  
And curl'd on silver props, in order glow :  
A darker metal mix'd, intrench'd the place ; 655  
And pales of glitt'ring tin th' inclosure grace.  
To this one path-way gently winding leads,  
Where march a train with baskets on their heads,  
(Fair maids and blooming youths), that smiling bear  
The purple product of th' autumnal year. 660

To these a youth awakes the warbling string,  
Whose tender lay the fate of Linus sings ;  
In measur'd dance behind him move the train,  
Tune soft the voice, and answer to the strain.

Here, herds of oxen march, erect and bold, 665  
Rear high their horns, and seem to low in gold,  
And speed to meadows on whose sounding shores  
A rapid torrent thro' the rushes roars :

Four golden herdsmen as their guardians stand,  
And nine four dogs complete the rustic band. 670

Two lions rushing from the wood appear'd,  
And seiz'd a bull, the master of the herd :  
He roar'd : in vain the dogs, the men withstood ;  
They tore his flesh, and drank the sable blood.  
The dogs (oft cheer'd in vain) desert the prey, 675  
Dread the grim terrors, and at distance bay.

Next



Next this, the eye the art of Vulcan leads  
 Deep through fair forests, and a length of meads;  
 And stalls, and folds, and scatter'd cots between:  
 And fleecy flocks that whiten all the scene. 680

A figur'd dance succeeds; such once was seen  
 In lofty Gnosus, for the Cretan queen,  
 Form'd by Daedalean art: a comely band  
 Of youths and maidens, bounding hand in hand;  
 The maids in soft simars of linen drest; 685

The youths all graceful in the glossy vest:  
 Of those the locks with flow'ry wreaths inroll'd;  
 Of these the sides adorn'd with swords of gold,  
 That glitt'ring gay from silver belts depend.  
 Now all at once they rise, at once descend, 690

With well taught feet: now shape in oblique ways,  
 Confus'dly regular, the moving maze;  
 Now forth at once, too swift for sight they spring,  
 And undistinguish'd blend the flying ring:  
 So whirls a wheel in giddy circle toft, 695  
 And, rapid as it runs, the single spokes are lost.

The gazing multitudes admire around:  
 Two active tumblers in the centre bound;  
 Now high, now low, their pliant limbs they bend;  
 And gen'ral songs the sprightly revel end. 700

Thus the broad shield complete the artist crown'd  
 With his last hand, and pour'd the ocean round:  
 In living silver seem'd the waves to roll,  
 And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole.

This done, whate'er a warrior's use requires, 705  
 He forg'd; the cuirass that outshines the fires,  
 The greaves of ductile tin, the helm impiest  
 With various sculpture, and the golden crest.  
 At Thetis' feet the finish'd labour lay;  
 She, as a falcon, cuts th' aërial way, 710  
 Swift from Olympus snowy summit flies,  
 And bears the blazing present through the skies.



T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K XIX.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The reconciliation of Achilles and Agamemnon.

*Thetis brings to her son the armour made by Vulcan. She preserves the body of his friend from corruption, and commands him to assemble the army, to declare his resentment at an end. Agamemnon and Achilles are solemnly reconciled: the speeches, presents, and ceremonies on that occasion. Achilles is with great difficulty persuaded to refrain from the battle till the troops have refreshed themselves, by the advice of Ulysses. The presents are conveyed to the tent of Achilles; where Briseis laments over the body of Patroclus. The hero obstinately refuses all repast, and gives himself up to lamentations for his friend. Minerva descends to strengthen him, by the order of Jupiter. He arms for the fight: his appearance described. He addresses himself to his horses, and reproaches them with the death of Patroclus. One of them is miraculously endued with voice, and inspired to prophesy his fate; but the hero, not astonished by that prodigy, rushes with fury to the combat.*

*The thirtieth day. The scene is on the sea-shore.*

**S**QON as Aurora heav'd her orient head,  
Above the waves, that blush'd with early red,  
(With new-born day to gladden mortal sight,  
And gild the courts of heav'n with sacred light),  
Th' im-



Th' immortal arms the Goddess-mother bears 5  
 Swift to her son : her son she finds in tears  
 Stretch'd o'er Patroclus' corse ; while all the rest  
 Their sov'reign's sorrows in their own express.

A ray divine her heav'nly presence shed,  
 And thus, his hand soft-touching, Thetis said : 10

Suppress (my son) this rage of grief, and know  
 It was not man, but heav'n that gave the blow ;  
 Behold what arms by Vulcan are bestow'd,  
 Arms worthy thee, or fit to grace a God.

Then drops the radiant burden on the ground : 15  
 Clang the strong arms, and ring the shores around :  
 Back shrink the Myrmidons with dread surprise,  
 And from the broad effulgence turn their eyes.  
 Unmov'd, the hero kindles at the show,  
 And feels with rage divine his bosom glow ; 20  
 From his fierce eye-balls living flames expire,  
 And flash incessant like a stream of fire :  
 He turns the radiant gift, and feeds his mind  
 On all th' immortal artist had design'd.

Goddeſs ! (he cry'd), theſe glorious arms that ſhine  
 With matchleſs art, confeſs the hand divine. 26  
 Now to the bloody battle let me bend :  
 But ah ! the relics of my ſlaughter'd friend !  
 In thoſe wide wounds thro' which his ſpirit fled,  
 Shall flies and worms obſcene pollute the dead ? 30

That unavailing care be laid aſide,  
 (The azure Goddeſs to her ſon reply'd) ;  
 Whole years untouch'd, uninjur'd ſhall remain,  
 Freſh as in life, the carcaſe of the ſlain.  
 But go, Achilles, (as affairs require), 35  
 Before the Grecian peers renounce thine ire :  
 Then uncontroll'd in boundleſs war engage,  
 And heav'n with ſtrength ſupply the mighty rage !

Then in the noſtrils of the ſlain ſhe pour'd  
 Nectareous drops, and rich ambroſia ſhow'r'd 40  
 O'er all the corſe. The flies forbid their prey,  
 Untouch'd it reſts, and ſacred from decay.

Achilles to the ſtrand obedient went :  
 The ſhores reſounded with the voice he ſent.  
 The heroes heard, and all the naval train 45

That tend the ſhips, or guide them o'er the main,  
 Alarm'd



Alarm'd, transported, at the well-known sound,  
Frequent and full, the great assembly crown'd;  
Studious to see that terror of the plain,  
Long lost to battle, shine in arms again,  
Tydides and Ulysses first appear,  
Lame with their wounds, and leaning on the spear;  
These on the sacred seats of council plac'd  
The king of men, Atrides, came the last:  
He too sore wounded by Agenor's son,  
Achilles (rising in the midst) begun :

55

Oh monarch ! better far had been the fate  
Of thee, of me, of all the Grecian state,  
If (ere the day when by mad passion sway'd;  
Rash we contended for the black-ey'd maid),  
Preventing Dian had dispatch'd her dart,  
And shot the shining mischief to the heart !  
Then many a hero had not press'd the shore,  
Nor Troy's glad fields been fatten'd with our gore :  
Long, long shall Greece the woes we caus'd bewail,  
And sad posterity repeat the tale.

60

But this, no more the subject of debate,  
Is past, forgotten, and resign'd to fate ;  
Why should (alas !) a mortal man, as I,  
Burn with a fury that can never die ?

70

Here then my anger ends : let war succeed,  
And ev'n as Greece has bled, let Ilion bleed.  
Now call the hosts, and try, if in our fight,  
Troy yet shall dare to camp a second night :  
I deem, their mightiest, when this arm he knows,  
Shall 'scape with transport, and with joy repose.

75

He said : his finish'd wrath with loud acclaim  
The Greeks accept, and shout Pelides' name.  
When thus, not rising from his lofty throne,  
In state unmov'd, the king of men begun ;  
Hear me, ye sons of Greece ! with silence hear !  
And grant your monarch an impartial ear ;  
A while your loud untimely joy suspend,  
And let your rash, injurious clamours end :

80

Unruly murmurs, or ill-tim'd applause,  
Wrong the best speaker, and the justest cause.  
Nor charge on me, ye Greeks, the dire debate :  
Know, angry Jove, and all-compelling Fate,

85

With



With fell Erinnyes, urg'd my wrath that day  
 When from Achilles' arms I forc'd the prey.  
 What then could I, against the will of heav'n?  
 Not by myself, but vengeful Atè driv'n;  
 She, Jove's dread daughter, fated to infest  
 The race of mortals, enter'd in my breast.  
 Not on the ground that haughty fury treads, 95  
 But prints her lofty footsteps on the heads  
 Of mighty men: inflicting as she goes  
 Long fest'ring wounds, inextricable woes!  
 Of old, she stalk'd amid the bright abodes;  
 And Jove himself, the fire of men and Gods, 100  
 The world's great ruler, felt her venom'd dart;  
 Deceiv'd by Juno's wiles, and female art.  
 For when Alcmena's nine long months were run,  
 And Jove expected his immortal son;  
 To Gods and Goddesses th' unruly joy 105  
 He show'd, and vaunted of his matchless boy:  
 From us (he said) this day an infant springs,  
 Fated to rule, and born a king of kings.  
 Saturnia ask'd an oath, to vouch the truth,  
 And fix dominion on the favour'd youth. 110  
 The Thund'rer, unsuspecting of the fraud,  
 Pronounc'd those solemn words that bind a God.  
 The joyful Goddesses, from Olympus' height,  
 Swift to Achaian Argos bent her flight:  
 Scarce sev'n moons gone, lay Sthenelus's wife; 115  
 She push'd her ling'ring infant into life:  
 Her charms Alcmena's coming labours stay,  
 And stop the babe just issuing to the day.  
 Then bids Saturnia bear his oath in mind;  
 "A youth (said she) of Jove's immortal kind 120  
 "Is this day born: from Sthenelus he springs,  
 "And claims thy promise to be king of kings."  
 Grief seiz'd the Thund'rer, by his oath engag'd;  
 Stung to the soul, he sorrow'd, and he rag'd.  
 From his ambrosial head, where perch'd she sat, 125  
 He snatch'd the Fury-goddesses of Debate,  
 The dread, th' irrevocable oath he swore,  
 Th' immortal seats should ne'er behold her more;  
 And whirl'd her headlong down, for ever driv'n  
 From bright Olympus and the starry heav'n: 130  
 I Thence



Thence on the nether world the fury fell ;  
 Ordain'd with man's contentious race to dwell.  
 Full oft the God his son's hard toils bemoan'd,  
 Curs'd the dire fury, and in secret groan'd.  
 Ev'n thus, like Jove himself, was I misled, 135  
 While raging Hector heap'd our camps with dead.  
 What can the errors of my rage atone ?

My martial troops, my treasures are thy own :  
 This instant from the navy shall be sent  
 Whate'er Ulysses promis'd at thy tent ; 140  
 But thou ! appeas'd, propitious to our pray'r,  
 Resume thy arms, and shine again in war.

O king of nations ! whose superior sway  
 (Returns Achilles) all our hosts obey !  
 To keep or send the presents, be thy care ; 145  
 To us, 'tis equal : all we ask is war.  
 While yet we talk, or but an instant shun  
 The fight, our glorious work remains undone.  
 Let ev'ry Greek, who sees my spear confound  
 The Trojan ranks, and deal destruction round. 150  
 With emulation, what I act, survey,  
 And learn from thence the bus'ness of the day.

The son of Peleus thus : and thus replies  
 The great in councils, Ithacus the wise :  
 Tho', godlike, thou art by no toils oppress'd, 155  
 At least our armies claim repast and rest :  
 Long and laborious must the combat be,  
 When by the Gods inspir'd, and led by thee.  
 Strength is deriv'd from spirits and from blood,  
 And those augment by gen'rous wine and food : 160  
 What boastful son of war, without that stay,  
 Can last a hero thro' a single day ?

Courage may prompt ; but, ebbing out his strength,  
 Mere unsupported man must yield at length ;  
 Shrunk with dry famine, and with toils declin'd, 165  
 The drooping body will desert the mind :  
 But built anew with strength-conferring fare,  
 With limbs and soul untam'd, he tires a war.  
 Dismiss the people then, and give command,  
 With strong repast to hearten ev'ry band ; 170  
 But let the presents to Achilles made,  
 In full assembly of all Greece be laid.



The king of men shall rise in public fight,  
 And solemn swear, (observant of the rite),  
 That spotless as she came, the maid removes, 175  
 Pure from his arms, and guiltless of his loves.

That done, a sumptuous banquet shall be made,  
 And the full price of injur'd honour paid.  
 Stretch not henceforth, O prince! thy sov'reign might  
 Beyond the bounds of reason and of right: 180

'Tis the chief praise that e'er to kings belong'd,  
 To right with justice whom with pow'r they wrong'd.

To him the monarch: Just is thy decree,  
 Thy words give joy, and wisdom breathes in thee.  
 Each due atonement gladly I prepare; 185

And heav'n regard me, as I justly swear!  
 Here then a while let Greece assembled stay,  
 Nor great Achilles grudge this short delay;  
 Till from the fleet our presents be convey'd,  
 And, Jove attesting, the firm compact made. 190

A train of noble youth the charge shall bear;  
 These to select, Ulysses, be thy care:  
 In order rank'd let all our gifts appear,  
 And the fair train of captives close the rear:  
 Talthybius shall the victim boar convey, 195  
 Sacred to Jove, and yon bright orb of day.

For this (the stern Æacides replies)  
 Some less important season may suffice,  
 When the stern fury of the war is o'er,  
 And wrath extinguish'd burns my breast no more. 200

By Hector slain, their faces to the sky,  
 All grim with gaping wounds, our heroes lie:  
 Those call to war! and might my voice incite,  
 Now, now, this instant, should commence the fight.  
 Then, when the day's complete, let gen'rous bowls, 205  
 And copious banquets, glad your weary souls.

Let not my palate know the taste of food,  
 Till my insatiate rage be cloy'd with blood:  
 Pale lies my friend, with wounds disfigur'd o'er,  
 And his cold feet are pointed to the door, 210  
 Revenge is all my soul! no meaner care,  
 Int'rest, or thought, has room to harbour there;  
 Destruction be my feast, and mortal wounds,  
 And scenes of blood, and agonizing sounds.



O first of Greeks, (Ulysses thus rejoin'd), 215  
The best and bravest of the warrior-kind !  
Thy praise it is in dreadful camps to shine,  
But old experience and calm wisdom mine.  
Then hear my counsel, and to reason yield,  
The bravest soon are satiate of the field ; 220  
Tho' vast the heaps that strow the crimson plain,  
The bloody harvest brings but little gain :  
The scale of conquest ever wav'ring lies,  
Great Jove but turns it, and the victor dies !  
The great, the bold, by thousands daily fall, 225  
And endless were the grief, to weep for all.  
Eternal sorrows what avails to shed ?  
Greece honours not with solemn fasts the dead :  
Enough, when death demands the brave, to pay  
The tribute of a melancholy day. 230  
One chief with patience to the grave resign'd,  
Our care devolves on others left behind.  
Let gen'rous food supplies of strength produce,  
Let rising spirits flow from sprightly juice,  
Let their warm heads with scenes of battle glow, 235  
And pour new furies on the feeble foe.  
Yet a short interval, and none shall dare  
Expect a second summons to the war ;  
Who waits for that, the dire effects shall find,  
If trembling in the ships he lags behind. 240  
Embodied, to the battle let us bend,  
And all at once on haughty Troy descend.  
And now the delegates Ulysses sent,  
To bear the presents from the royal tent.  
The sons of Nestor, Phyleus' valiant heir, 245  
Thias and Merion, thunderbolts of war,  
With Lycomedes of Creiontian strain,  
And Melanippus, form'd the chosen train.  
Swift as the word was giv'n, the youths obey'd ;  
Twice ten bright vases in the midst they laid ; 250  
A row of six fair tripods then succeeds ;  
And twice the number of high-bounding steeds :  
Sev'n captives next a lovely line compose ;  
The eighth Briseis, like the blooming rose,  
Clos'd the bright band : great Ithacus, before, 255  
First of the train, the golden talents bore ;



The rest in public view the chiefs dispose,  
 A splendid scene ! then Agamemnon rose :  
 The boar Talthybius held : the Grecian lord  
 Drew the broad cutlace sheath'd beside his sword : 260  
 The stubborn bristles from the victim's brow  
 He crops, and off'ring meditates his vow.  
 His hands uplifted to th' attesting skies,  
 On heav'n's broad marble roof were fix'd his eyes ;  
 The solemn words a deep attention draw, 265  
 And Greece around sat thrill'd with sacred awe.

Witness thou first ! thou greatest pow'r above !  
 All-good, all-wise, and all-surveying Jove !  
 And mother-earth, and heav'n's revolving light,  
 And ye, fell furies of the realms of night, 270  
 Who rule the dead, and horrid woes prepare  
 For perjur'd kings, and all who falsely swear !  
 The black-ey'd maid inviolate removes,  
 Pure and unconscious of my manly loves.  
 If this be false, heav'n all its vengeance shed, 275  
 And levell'd thunder strike my guilty head !

With that his weapon deep inflicts the wound ;  
 The bleeding savage tumbles to the ground.  
 The sacred herald rolls the victim slain  
 (A feast for fish) into the foaming main. 280

Then thus Achilles : Hear, ye Greeks ! and know  
 Whate'er we feel, 'tis Jove inflicts the woe :  
 Not else Atrides could our rage inflame,  
 Nor from my arms, unwilling, force the dame.  
 'Twas Jove's high will alone, o'er-ruling all, 285  
 That doom'd our strife, and doom'd the Greeks to fall.  
 Go then, ye chiefs ! indulge the genial rite ;  
 Achilles waits ye, and expects the fight.

The speedy council at his word adjourn'd :  
 To their black vessels all the Greeks return'd, 290  
 Achilles sought his tent. His train before  
 March'd onward, bending with the gifts they bore.  
 Those in the tents the squires industrious spread :  
 The foaming couriers to the stalls they led ;  
 To their new seats the female captives move : 295  
 Briseis, radiant as the queen of love,  
 Slow as she pass'd, beheld with sad survey  
 Where gash'd with cruel wounds, Patroclus lay,  
 Prone



Prone on the body fell the heav'nly fair,  
 Beat her sad breast, and tore her golden hair; 300  
 All beautiful in grief, her humid eyes,  
 Shining with tears, she lifts, and thus she cries.

Ah youth, for ever dear, for ever kind,  
 Once tender friend of my distracted mind!  
 I left thee fresh in life, in beauty gay; 305  
 Now find thee cold, inanimated clay!

What woes my wretched race of life attend?  
 Sorrows on sorrows, never doom'd to end!  
 The first lov'd comfort of my virgin bed  
 Before these eyes in fatal battle bled: 310

My three brave brothers, in one mournful day,  
 All trod the dark, irremeable way:  
 Thy friendly hand uprear'd me from the plain,  
 And dry'd my sorrows for a husband slain;

Achilles' care you promis'd I should prove, 315  
 The first, the dearest partner of his love;  
 That rites divine should ratify the band,  
 And make me empress in his native land.

Accept these grateful tears! for thee they flow,  
 For thee, that ever felt another's woe! 320

Her sister captives echo'd groan for groan,  
 Nor mourn'd Patroclus' fortunes, but their own.  
 The leaders press'd the chief on ev'ry side;  
 Unmov'd he heard them, and with sighs deny'd.

If yet Achilles have a friend, whose care 325  
 Is bent to please him, this request forbear:  
 Till yonder sun descend, ah let me pay  
 To grief and anguish one abstemious day.

He spoke, and from the warriors turn'd his face:  
 Yet still the brother-kings of Atreus' race, 330  
 Nestor, Idomeneus, Ulysses sage,

And Phoenix, strive to calm his grief and rage:  
 His rage they calm not, nor his grief controul;  
 He groans, he raves, he sorrows from his soul.

Thou too, Patroclus! (thus his heart he vents), 335  
 Once spread th' inviting banquet in our tents:  
 Thy sweet society, thy winning care,  
 Once staid Achilles, rushing to the war.

But now, alas! to death's cold arms resign'd,  
 What banquet but revenge can glad my mind? 340



What greater sorrow could afflict my breast,  
 What more, if hoary Peleus were deceast?  
 Who now, perhaps, in Phthia dreads to hear,  
 His son's sad fate, and drops a tender tear.  
 What more, should Neoptolemus the brave  
 (My only offspring) sink into the grave?  
 If yet that offspring lives, (I distant far,  
 Of all neglectful, wage a hateful war).

345

I could not this, this cruel stroke attend;  
 Fate claim'd Achilles, but might spare his friend.

350

I hop'd Patroclus might survive, to rear  
 My tender orphans with a parent's care,  
 From Scyros isle conduct him o'er the main,  
 And glad his eyes with his paternal reign,  
 The lofty palace, and the large domain.

355

For Peleus breathes no more the vital air;  
 Or drags a wretched life of age and care,  
 But till the news of my sad fate invades  
 His hast'ning soul, and sinks him to the shades.

Sighing he said: his grief the heroes join'd,  
 Each stole a tear for what he left behind.

360

Their mingled grief the fire of heav'n survey'd,  
 And thus, with pity, to his blue-ey'd maid:

Is then Achilles now no more thy care,  
 And dost thou thus desert the great in war?

365

Lo, where yon sails their canvas wings extend,  
 All comfortless he sits, and wails his friend:  
 Ere thirst and want his forces have oppress'd,  
 Haste and infuse ambrosia in his breast.

He spoke; and sudden at the word of Jove,  
 Shot the descending Goddess from above.

370

So swift thro' æther the shrill harpy springs,  
 The wide air floating to her ample wings.

To great Achilles she her flight addrest,  
 And Pour'd divine ambrosia in his breast,

375

With nectar sweet, (refection of the Gods!)  
 Then swift ascending, sought the bright abodes.

Now issu'd from the ships the warrior train,  
 And like a deluge pour'd upon the plain.

As when the piercing blasts of Boreas blow,  
 And scatter o'er the fields the driving snow;

380

From



From dusky clouds the fleecy winter flies,  
Whose dazzling lustre whitens all the skies :  
So helms succeeding helms, so shields from shields  
Catch the quick beams, and brighten all the fields ; 385  
Broad glitt'ring breast plates, spears with pointed rays  
Mix in one stream, reflecting blaze on blaze :

Thick beats the centre as the coursers bound, [round.  
With splendour flame the skies, and laugh the fields a-  
Full in the midst, high-tow'ring o'er the rest, 390

His limbs in arms divine Achilles drest ;  
Arms which the father of the fire bestow'd,  
Forg'd on th' eternal anvils of the God.  
Grief and revenge his furious heart inspire,  
His glowing eye-balls roll with living fire ; 395  
He grinds his teeth, and furious with delay  
O'erlooks th' embattled host, and hopes the bloody day.

The silver cuishes first his thighs infold :  
Then o'er his breast was brac'd the hollow gold :  
The brazen sword a various baldric ty'd, 400  
That, starr'd with gems, hung glitt'ring at his side ;  
And, like the moon, the broad refulgent shield  
Blaz'd with long rays, and gleam'd athwart the field.

So to night-wand'ring sailors, pale with fears,  
Wide o'er the wat'ry waste a light appears, 405  
Which on the far-seen mountain blazing high,  
Streams from some lonely watch-tow'r to the sky :  
With mournful eyes they gaze, and gaze again ;  
Loud howls the storm, and drives them o'er the main.

Next, his high head the helmet grac'd ; behind 410  
The sweepy crest hung floating in the wind :  
Like the red star, that from his flaming hair  
Shakes down diseases, pestilence, and war ;  
So stream'd the golden honours from his head, [shed.  
Trembled the sparkling plumes, and the loose glories

The chief beholds himself with wond'ring eyes ; 416  
His arms he poises, and his motions tries ;  
Buoy'd by some inward force he seems to swim,  
And feels a pinion lifting ev'ry limb.

And now he shakes his great paternal spear, 420  
Pond'rous and huge ! which not a Greek could rear.  
From Pelion's cloudy top an ash entire  
Old Chiron fell'd, and shap'd it for his sire ;



A spear which stern Achilles only wields,  
The death of heroes, and the dread of fields. 425

Automedon and Alcimus prepare  
Th' immortal courfers, and the radiant car,  
(The silver traces sweeping at their side);  
Their fiery mouths resplendent bridles ty'd,  
The iv'ry studded reins, return'd behind, 430  
Wav'd o'er their backs, and to the chariot join'd.  
The charioteer then whirl'd the lash around,  
And swift ascended at one active bound.

All bright in heav'nly arms, above his squire  
Achilles mounts, and sets the field on fire; 435  
Not brighter Phœbus in th' æthereal way,  
Flames from his chariot, and restores the day.  
High o'er the host all terrible he stands,  
And thunders to his steeds these dread commands:

Xanthus and Balius! of Podarges' strain, 440  
(Unless ye boast that heav'nly race in vain),  
Be swift, be mindful of the load ye bear,  
And learn to make your master more your care:  
Thro' falling squadrons bear my slaughter'ring sword,  
Nor, as ye left Patroclus, leave your lord. 445

The gen'rous Xanthus, as the words he said,  
Seem'd sensible of woe, and droop'd his head:  
Trembling he stood before the golden wain,  
And bow'd to dust the honours of his mane;  
When, strange to tell! (so Juno will'd), he broke 450  
Eternal silence, and portentous spoke.

Achilles! yes! this day at least we bear  
Thy rage in safety thro' the files of war:  
But come it will, the fatal time must come,  
Nor ours the fault, but God decrees thy doom. 455  
Not thro' our crime, or slowness in the course,  
Fell thy Patroclus, but by heav'nly force;  
The bright far-shooting God who gilds the day,  
(Confess'd we saw him), tore his arms away.  
No—could our swiftness o'er the winds prevail, 460  
Or beat the pinions of the western gale,  
All were in vain—the fates thy death demand,  
Due to a mortal and immortal hand.

Then ceas'd for ever, by the Furies ty'd,  
His fateful voice. Th' intrepid chief reply'd 465

With



With unabated rage—So let it be!  
Portents and prodigies are lost on me.  
I know my fates; to die, to see no more  
My much-lov'd parents, and my native shore—  
Enough—when heav'n ordains I sink in night;  
Now perish Troy! he said, and rush'd to fight. 470

THE



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K XX.

### T H E A R G U M E N T.

The battle of the Gods, and the acts of Achilles.

*Jupiter, upon Achilles's return to the battle, calls a council of the Gods, and permits them to assist either party. The terrors of the combat described, when the Deities are engaged. Apollo encourages Æneas to meet Achilles. After a long conversation, these two heroes encounter; but Æneas is preserved by the assistance of Neptune. Achilles falls upon the rest of the Trojans, and is upon the point of killing Hector, but Apollo conveys him away in a cloud. Achilles pursues the Trojans with a great slaughter.*

*The same day continues. The scene is in the field before Troy.*

**T**HUS round Pelides, breathing war and blood,  
Greece sheath'd in arms, beside her vessels stood;  
While near impending from a neigh'ring height,  
Troy's black battalions wait the shock of fight.  
Then Jove to Themis gives command, to call  
The Gods to council in the starry hall:  
Swift o'er Olympus' hundred hills she flies,  
And summons all the senate of the skies.  
These shining on, in long procession come  
To Jove's eternal adamant dome.  
Not one was absent, not a rural pow'r,  
That haunts the verdant gloom or rosy bow'r,

Each



Each fair-hair'd Dryad of the shady wood,  
 Each azure sister of the silver flood ;  
 All but old Ocean, hoary fire ! who keeps  
 His ancient seat beneath the sacred deeps. 15

On marble thrones with lucid columns crown'd,  
 (The work of Vulcan), sat the pow'rs around,  
 Ev'n \* he whose trident sways the wat'ry reign,  
 Heard the loud summons, and forsook the main, 20  
 Assum'd his throne amid the bright abodes,  
 And question'd thus the fire of men and Gods :

What moves the God who heav'n and earth commands,  
 And grasps the thunder in his awful hands,  
 Thus to convene the whole æthereal state ? 25  
 Is Greece and Troy the subject in debate ?  
 Already met, the louting hosts appear,  
 And death stands ardent on the edge of war.

'Tis true, (the cloud compelling pow'r replies),  
 This day, we call the council of the skies 30  
 In care of human race ; ev'n Jove's own eye  
 Sees with regret unhappy mortals die.  
 Far on Olympus' top in secret state,  
 Ourselves will sit, and see the hand of fate  
 Work out our will. Celestial pow'rs ! descend, 35  
 And, as your minds direct, your succour lend  
 To either host. Troy soon must lie o'erthrown,  
 If uncontroll'd Achilles fights alone :

Their troops but lately durst not meet his eyes ;  
 What can they now, if in his rage he rise ? 40  
 Assist them, Gods ! or sacred Ilion's wall  
 May fall this day, though fate forbids the fall.

He said, and fir'd their heav'nly breasts with rage :  
 On adverse parts the warring Gods engage.  
 Heav'n's awful queen ; and he whose azure round 45  
 Girds the vast globe ; the maid in arms renown'd ;  
 Hermes, of profitable arts the fire ;  
 And Vulcan, the black sov'reign of the fire ;  
 These to the fleet repair with instant flight ;  
 The vessels tremble as the Gods alight. 50  
 In aid of Troy, Latona, Phœbus came,  
 Mars fiery-helm'd, the laughter-loving dame,

\* Neptune.



Xanthus, whose streams in golden currents flow,  
And the chaste huntress of the silver bow.

Ere yet the Gods their various aid employ,  
Each Argive bosom swell'd with manly joy;  
While great Achilles, (terror of the plain),  
Long lost to battle, shone in arms again.

55

Dreadful he stood in front of all his host;  
Pale Troy beheld, and seem'd already lost;  
Her bravest heroes pant with inward fear,  
And trembling see another God of war.

60

But when the pow'rs descending swell'd the fight,  
Then tumult rose; fierce rage and pale affright  
Vary'd each face; then discord sounds alarms,  
Earth echoes, and the nations rush to arms.

65

Now through the trembling shores Minerva calls,  
And now she thunders from the Grecian walls.  
Mars hov'ring o'er his Troy, his terror shrouds  
In gloomy tempests, and a night of clouds:

70

Now through each Trojan heart he fury pours,  
With voice divine, from Ilion's topmost tow'rs;  
Now shouts to Simois, from her beauteous hill;  
The mountain shook, the rapid stream stood still,  
Above, the fire of Gods his thunder rolls,

75

And peals on peals redoubled rend the poles.  
Beneath, stern Neptune shakes the solid ground;  
The forests wave, the mountains nod around;  
Through all their summits tremble Ida's woods,  
And from their sources boil her hundred floods.

80

Troy's turrets totter on the roking plain;  
And the toss'd navies beat the heaving main.  
Deep in the dismal regions of the dead,  
Th' infernal monarch rear'd his horrid head,  
Leap'd from his throne, lest Neptune's arm should lay  
His dark dominions open to the day,

85

And pour in light on Pluto's drear abodes,  
Abhorr'd by men, and dreadful ev'n to Gods.

Such war th'immortals wage: such horrors rend  
The world's vast concave, when the Gods contend.

90

First silver shafted Phœbus took the plain  
Against blue Neptune, monarch of the main:

The God of arms his giant bulk display'd,  
Oppos'd to Pallas, war's triumphant-maid.

Against



Against Latona march'd the son of May :  
 The quiver'd Dian, sister of the day,  
 (Her golden arrows founding at her side),  
 Saturnia, Majesty of heav'n, defy'd.  
 With fiery Vulcan last in battle stands,  
 The sacred flood that rolls on golden sands;  
 Xanthus his name, with those of heav'nly birth,  
 But call'd Scamander by the sons of earth.

95

100

While thus the Gods in various league engage,  
 Achilles glow'd with more than mortal rage :  
 Hector he fought ; in search of Hector turn'd  
 His eyes around, for Hector only burn'd ;  
 And burst like light'ning thro' the ranks, and vow'd  
 To glut the God of battles with his blood.

105

Æneas was the first who dar'd to stay ;  
 Apollo wedg'd him in the warrior's way,  
 But swell'd his bosom with undaunted might,  
 Half-forc'd, and half-persuaded to the fight.  
 Like young Lycaon, of the royal line,  
 In voice and aspect, seem'd the pow'r divine ;  
 And bade the chief reflect, how late with scorn  
 In distant threats he brav'd the Goddess-born.

110

115

Then thus the hero of Anchises' strain.  
 To meet Pelides you persuade in vain :  
 Already have I met, nor void of fear  
 Observ'd the fury of his flying spear ;  
 From Ida's woods he chac'd us to the field,  
 Our force he scatter'd, and our herds he kill'd ;  
 Lyrnessus, Pedasus in ashes lay ;  
 But (Jove assisting) I surviv'd the day.  
 Else had I sunk oppress'd in fatal fight,  
 By fierce Achilles and Minerva's might.  
 Where'er he mov'd, the Goddess shone before,  
 And bath'd his brazen lance in hostile gore.

120

125

What mortal man Achilles can sustain ?  
 Th' immortals guard him thro' the dreadful plain, 130 }  
 And suffer not his dart to fall in vain.  
 Were God my aid, this arm should check his pow'r,  
 Though strong in battle as a brazen tow'r.

To whom the son of Jove : That God implore,  
 And be what great Achilles was before.

135

From



From heav'nly Venus thou deriv'st thy strain,  
And he but from a sister of the main;  
An aged sea-god, father of his line,  
But Jove himself the sacred source of thine.  
Then lift thy weapon for a noble blow, 140  
Nor fear the vaunting of a mortal foe.

This said, and spirit breath'd into his breast,  
Through the thick troops th' embolden'd hero prest:  
His vent'rous act the white-arm'd queen survey'd,  
And thus, assembling all the pow'rs, she said: 145

Behold an action, Gods! that claims your care,  
Lo great Æneas rushing to the war!  
Against Pelides he directs his course;  
Phœbus impels, and Phœbus gives him force.  
Restrain his bold career; at least, t'attend 150  
Our favour'd hero, let some pow'r descend.  
To guard his life, and add to his renown,  
We, the great armament of heav'n, came down.  
Hereafter let him fall, as fates design,  
That spun so short his life's illustrious line: 155  
But least some adverse God now cross his way,  
Give him to know, what pow'rs assist this day:  
For how shall mortal stand the dire alarms,  
When heav'n's refulgent host appear in arms?

Thus she; and thus the God whose force can make  
The solid globe's eternal basis shake: 161  
Against the might of man, so feeble known,  
Why should celestial pow'rs exert their own?  
Suffice, from yonder mount to view the scene;  
And leave to war the fates of mortal men. 165  
But if th' Armipotent, or God of light,  
Obstruct Achilles, or commence the fight,  
Thence on the Gods of Troy we swift descend:  
Full soon, ! doubt not, shall the conflict end,  
And these, in ruin and confusion hurl'd, 170  
Yield to our conqu'ring arms the lower world.

Thus having said, the tyrant of the sea,  
Cærulean Neptune, rose, and led the way.  
Advanc'd upon the field there stood a mound  
Of earth congested, wall'd, and trench'd around; 175  
In elder times to guard Alcides made,  
(The work of Trojans; with Minerva's aid),

What



What time a vengeful monster of the main  
Swept the wide shore, and drove him to the plain.

Here Neptune and the Gods of Greece repair, 180  
With clouds encompass'd, and a veil of air :  
The adverse pow'rs, around Apollo laid,  
Crown the fair hills that silver Simois shade.  
In circle close each heav'nly party sat,  
Intent to form the future scheme of fate ; 185  
But mix not yet in fight, though Jove on high  
Gives the loud signal, and the heav'ns reply.

Mean while the rushing armies hide the ground :  
The trampled centre yields a hollow sound :  
Steeds cas'd in mail, and chiefs in armour bright, 190  
The gleamy champaign glows with brazen light.  
Amid both hosts (a dreadful space !) appear  
There great Achilles ; bold Æneas, here.  
With tow'ring strides Æneas first advanc'd :  
The nodding plumage on his helmet danc'd, 195  
Spread o'er his breast, the fencing shield he bore,  
And, as he mov'd, his jav'lin flam'd before.  
Not so Pelides ; furious to engage,  
He rush'd impetuous. Such the lion's rage,  
Who viewing first his foes with scornful eyes, 200  
Though all in arms the peopled city rise,  
Stalks careless on, with unregarding pride :  
Till at the length, by some brave youth defy'd,  
To his bold spear the savage turns alone,  
He murmurs fury with an hollow groan ; 205  
He grins, he foams, he rolls his eyes around ;  
Lash'd by his tail, his heaving sides resound ;  
He calls up all his rage ; he grinds his teeth,  
Resolv'd on vengeance, or resolv'd on death.  
So fierce Achilles on Æneas flies ; 310  
So stands Æneas, and his force defies.

Ere yet the stern encounter join'd begun  
The feed of Thetis thus to Venus' son :

Why comes Æneas through the ranks so far ?  
Seeks he to meet Achilles' arm in war, 315  
In hope the realms of Priam to enjoy,  
And prove his merits to the throne of Troy ?  
Grant that beneath thy lance Achilles dies,  
The partial monarch may refuse the prize :



Sons he has many: those thy pride may quell; 220  
And 'tis his fault to love those sons too well.  
Or, in reward of thy victorious hand,  
Has Troy propos'd some spacious tract of land;  
An ample forest, or a fair domain,  
Of hills for vines, and arable for grain? 225  
Ev'n this, perhaps, will hardly prove thy lot:  
But can Achilles' be so soon forgot?  
Once (as I think) you saw this brandish'd spear,  
And then the great Æneas seem'd to fear.  
With hearty haste from Ida's mount he fled, 230  
Nor, till he reach'd Lyrnessus, turn'd his head.  
Her lofty walls not long our progress staid;  
Those Pallas, Jove, and we, in ruins laid:  
In Grecian chains her captive race were cast;  
'Tis true, the great Æneas fled too fast. 235  
Defrauded of my conquest once before,  
What then I lost, the Gods this day restore.  
Go; while thou mayst, avoid the threaten'd fate;  
Fools stay to feel it, and are wise too late.  
To this Anchises' son, such words employ 240  
To one that fears thee, some unwarlike boy;  
Such we disdain; the best may be defy'd  
With mean reproaches, and unmanly pride;  
Unworthy the high race from which we came,  
Proclaim'd so loudly by the voice of fame: 245  
Each from illustrious fathers draws his line;  
Each Goddess-born; half human, half divine.  
Thetis' this day, or Venus' offspring dies,  
And tears shall trickle from celestial eyes;  
For when two heroes thus deriv'd, contend, 250  
'Tis not in words the glorious strife can end.  
If yet thou farther seek to learn my birth,  
(A tale refounded through the spacious earth),  
Hear how the glorious origin we prove  
From ancient Dardanus, the first from Jove: 255  
Dardania's walls he rais'd; for Ilion, then,  
(The city since of many languag'd men),  
Was not. The natives were content to till  
The shady foot of Ida's fount-full hill.  
From Dardanus, great Erichthonius springs, 260  
The richest, once, of Asia's wealthy kings;



Three thousand mares his spacious pastures bred,  
Three thousand foals beside their mothers fed.  
Boreas, enamour'd of the sprightly train,  
Conceal'd his Godhead in a flowing mane, 265  
With voice dissembled to his loves he neigh'd,  
And cours'd the dappled beauties o'er the mead:  
Hence sprung twelve others of unrivall'd kind,  
Swift as their mother-mares, and father Wind.  
These lightly skimming, when they swept the plain, 270  
Nor ply'd the grass, nor bent the tender grain;  
And when along the level seas they flew,  
Scarce on the surface curl'd the briny dew.  
Such Erichthonius was: from him there came  
The sacred Tros, of whom the Trojan name. 275  
Three sons renown'd adorn'd his nuptial bed,  
Ilus, Affaracus, and Ganymed:  
The matchless Ganymed, divinely fair,  
Whom heav'n, enamour'd, snatch'd to upper air,  
To bear the cup of Jove, (æthereal guest, 280  
The grace and glory of th' ambrosial feast).  
The two remaining sons the line divide:  
First rose Laomedon from Ilus' side;  
From him Tythonus, now in cares grown old.  
And Priam, (blest'd with Hector, brave and bold):  
Clytius and Lampus, ever-honour'd pair; 286  
And Hicetaon, thunderbolt of war.  
From great Affaracus sprung Capys, he  
Begot Anchises, and Anchises me.  
Such is our race: 'tis fortune gives us birth, 290  
But Jove alone endues the soul with worth:  
He, source of pow'r and might! with boundless sway,  
All human courage gives, or takes away.  
Long in the field of words we may contend,  
Reproach is infinite, and knows no end, 295  
Arm'd or with truth or falsehood, right or wrong;  
So voluble a weapon is the tongue;  
Wounded, we wound; and neither side can fail,  
For ev'ry man has equal strength to rail:  
Women alone, when in the streets they jar, 300  
Perhaps excel us in this wordy war;  
Like us they stand, encompass'd with the crowd,  
And vent their anger impotent and loud.



Cease then—Our bus'ness in the field of fight  
Is not to question, but to prove our might. 305  
To all those insults thou hast offer'd here,  
Receive this answer: 'tis my flying spear.

He spoke. With all his force the jav'lin flung,  
Fix'd deep, and loudly in the buckler rung.  
Far on his outstretch'd arm, Pelides held 310  
(To meet the thund'ring lance) his dreadful shield,  
That trembled as it stuck; nor void of fear  
Saw, ere it fell, th' immeasurable spear.

His fears were vain; impenetrable charms  
Secur'd the temper of th' æthereal arms. 315

Thro' two strong plates the point its passage held;  
But stopp'd, and rested, by the third repell'd.

Five plates of various metal, various mould,  
Compos'd the shield; of brass each outward fold.  
Of tin each inward, and the middle gold: 320

There stuck the lance. Then rising ere he threw,  
The forceful spear of great Achilles flew,

And pierc'd the Dardan shield's extremest bound,  
Where the shrill brass return'd a sharper sound:

Thro' the thin verge the Pelean weapon glides, 325  
And the slight cov'ring of expanded hides.

Æneas his contracted body bends,

And o'er him high the riven targe extends,

Sees, thro' its parting plates, the upper air,

And at his back perceives the quiv'ring spear: 330

A fate so near him, chills his soul with fright;

And swims before his eyes the many-colour'd light.

Achilles, rushing in with dreadful cries,

Draws his broad blade, and at Æneas flies:

Æneas, rousing as the foe came on, 335

(With force collected) heaves a mighty stone:

A mass enormous! which in modern days

No two of earth's degen'rate sons could raise.

But ocean's God, whose earthquakes rock the ground.

Saw the distress, and mov'd the pow'rs around. 340

Lo! on the brink of fate Æneas stands,

An instant victim to Achilles' hands:

By Phœbus urg'd; but Phœbus has bestow'd

His aid in vain: the man o'erpow'rs the God.

And



And can ye see this righteous chief atone, 345  
With guiltless blood, for vices not his own ?

To all the Gods his constant vows were paid :  
Sure, tho' he wars for Troy, he claims our aid.  
Fate wills not this ; nor thus can Jove resign

The future father of the Dardan line : 350

The first great ancestor obtain'd his grace,  
And still his love descends on all the race.

For Priam now, and Priam's faithless kind,  
At length are odious to th' all-seeing mind ;

On great Æneas shall devolve the reign, 355

And sons succeeding sons the lasting line sustain.

The great earth-shaker thus : to whom replies

Th' imperial Goddess with the radiant eyes :

Good as he is, to immolate or spare

The Dardan Prince, O Neptune, be thy care ; 360

Pallas and I, by all that Gods can bind,

Have sworn destruction to the Trojan kind ;

Not ev'n an instant to protract their fate,

Or save one member of the sinking state ;

Till her last flame be quench'd with her last gore, 365

And ev'n her crumbling ruins are no more.

The king of ocean to the fight descends,

Thro' all the whistling darts his course he bends,

Swift interpos'd between the warriors flies,

And casts thick darkness o'er Achilles' eyes. 370

From great Æneas' shield the spear he drew,

And at its master's feet the weapon threw.

That done, with force divine he snatch'd on high

The Dardan prince, and bore him thro' the sky.

Smooth-gliding without step, above the heads 375

Of warring heroes, and of bounding steeds :

Till at the battle's utmost verge they light,

Where the slow Caucons close the rear of fight.

The Godhead there (his heav'nly form confess'd)

With words like these the panting chief address'd : 380

What pow'r, O prince ! with force inferior far

Urg'd thee to meet Achilles' arm in war ?

Henceforth beware, nor antedate thy doom,

Defrauding fate of all thy fame to come.

But when the day decreed (for come it must) 385

Shall lay this dreadful hero in the dust,

Let



Let then the furies of that arm be known,  
Secure, no Grecian force transcends thy own.

With that, he left him wond'ring as he lay,  
Then from Achilles chac'd the mist away: 390

Sudden, returning with the stream of light,  
The scene of war came rushing on his sight.

Then thus, amaz'd ! What wonders strike my mind !

My spear, that parted on the wings of wind,  
Laid here before me ! and the Dardan lord 395

That fell this instant, vanish'd from my sword !

I thought alone with mortals to contend,

But pow'rs celestial sure this foe defend.

Great as he is, our arm he scarce will try,

Content for once, with all his Gods to fly. 400

Now then let others bleed — This said, aloud

He vents his fury, and inflames the croud :

O Greeks, (he cries, and ev'ry rank alarms),

Join battie, man to man, and arms to arms !

'Tis not in me, tho' favour'd by the sky, 405

To mow whole troops, and make whole armies fly :

No God can singly such a host engage,

Not Mars himself, nor great Minerva's rage.

But whatsoe'er Achilles can inspire,

Whate'er of active force, or acting fire ; 410

Whate'er this heart can prompt, or hand obey ;

All, all Achilles, Greeks ! is yours to-day,

Through yon wide host this arm shall scatter fear,

And thin the squadrons with my single spear.

He said: not less elate with martial joy, 415

The godlike Hector warm'd the troops of Troy :

Trojans, to war ! think Hector leads you on ;

Nor dread the vaunts of Peleus' haughty son.

Deeds must decide our fate. Ev'n those with words

Insult the brave, who tremble at their swords : 420

The weakest atheist-wretch all heav'n defies,

But shrinks and shudders, when the thunder flies.

Nor from yon boaster shall your chief retire,

Not though his heart were steel, his hands were fire ;

That fire, that steel, your Hector should withstand, 425

And brave that vengeful heart, that dreadful hand.

Thus (breathing rage through all) the hero said :

A wood of lances rises round his head,

Cl. mours



Clamours on clamours tempest all the air ;  
They join, they throng, they thicken to the war. 430  
But Phœbus warns him from high heav'n to shun  
The single fight with Thetis' godlike son ;  
More safe to combat in the mingled band,  
Nor tempt too near the terrors of his hand.  
He hears, obedient to the God of light, 435  
And plung'd within the ranks, awaits the fight.

Then fierce Achilles, shouting to the skies,  
On Troy's whole force with boundless fury flies.  
First falls Iphytion, at his army's head ;  
Brave was the chief, and brave the host he led ; 440  
From great Otrynteus he deriv'd his blood,  
His mother was a Nais of the flood ;  
Beneath the shades of Tmolus, crown'd with snow,  
From Hyde's walls he rul'd the lands below.  
Fierce as he springs, the sword his head divides ; 445  
The parted visage falls on equal sides :  
With loud-resounding arms he strikes the plain ;  
While thus Achilles glories o'er the slain :

Lie there, Otryntides ! the Trojan earth  
Receives thee dead, though Gygæ boast thy birth ; 450  
Those beauteous fields where Hyllus' waves are roll'd,  
And plenteous Hermus swells with tides of gold,  
Are thine no more—Th' insulting hero said,  
And left him sleeping in eternal shade.  
The rolling wheels of Greece the body tore, 455  
And dash'd their axles with no vulgar gore.

Demoleon next, Antenor's offspring, laid  
Breathless in dust, the price of rashness paid.  
Th' impatient steel, with full-descending sway  
Forc'd through his brazen helm its furious way, 460  
Resistless drove the batter'd scull before,  
And dash'd and mingled all the brains with gore.  
This sees Hippodamas, and seiz'd with fright,  
Deserts his chariot for a swifter flight.  
The lance arrests him: an ignoble wound 464  
The panting Trojan rivets to the ground.  
He groans away his soul : not louder roars  
At Neptune's shrine on Helice's high shores  
The victim bull ; the rocks rebellow round,  
And Ocean listens to the grateful sound. 470

Then



Then fell on Polydore his vengeful rage.  
 The youngest hope of Priam's stooping age,  
 (Whose feet for swiftness in the race surpass),  
 Of all his sons, the dearest, and the last.  
 To the forbidden field he takes his flight 475  
 In the first folly of a youthful knight;  
 To vaunt his swiftness wheels around the plain,  
 But vaunts not long, with all his swiftness slain.  
 Struck where the crossing belts unite behind,  
 And golden rings the double back-plate join'd: 480  
 Forth through the navel burst the thrilling steel;  
 And on his knees with piercing shrieks he fell;  
 The rushing entrails pour'd upon the ground  
 His hands collect; and darkness wraps him round.  
 When Hector view'd, all ghastly in his gore 485  
 Thus sadly slain, th' unhappy Polydore;  
 A cloud of sorrow overcast his sight,  
 His soul no longer brook'd the distant fight,  
 Full in Achilles' dreadful front he came,  
 And shook his jav'lin like a waving flame. 490  
 The son of Peleus sees, with joy possess'd,  
 His heart high bounding in his rising breast:  
 And, lo! the man, on whom black fates attend,  
 The man, that slew Achilles, in his friend  
 No more shall Hector's and Pelides' spear 495  
 Turn from each other in the walks of war—  
 Then with revengeful eyes he scann'd him o'er:  
 Come, and receive thy fate! he spake no more.  
 Hector, undaunted, thus: Such words employ  
 To one that dreads thee, some unwarlike boy: 500  
 Such we could give, defying and defy'd,  
 Mean intercourse of obloquy and pride!  
 I know thy force to mine superior far;  
 But heav'n alone confers success in war:  
 Mean as I am, the Gods may guide my dart, 505  
 And give it entrance in a braver heart.  
 Then parts the lance: but Pallas' heav'nly breath  
 Far from Achilles wafts the winged death:  
 The bidden dart again to Hector flies,  
 And at the feet of its great master lies. 510  
 Achilles closes with his hated foe,  
 His heart and eyes with flaming fury glow:  
 But



But present to his aid, Apollo shrouds  
The favour'd hero in a veil of clouds.  
Thrice struck Pelides with indignant heart, 515  
Thrice in impassive air he plung'd the dart :  
The spear a fourth time bury'd in the cloud ;  
He foams with fury, and exclaims aloud :

Wretch ! thou hast 'scap'd again ; once more thy flight  
Has sav'd thee, and the partial God of light. 520

But long thou shalt not thy just fate withstand,  
If any pow'r assist Achilles' hand.

Fly then inglorious ! but thy flight this day  
Whole hecatombs of Trojan ghosts shall pay.

With that, he gluts his rage on numbers slain : 525

Then Dryops tumbled to th' ensanguin'd plain,  
Pierc'd through the neck : he left him panting there,  
And stopp'd Demuchus, great Philetor's heir,  
Gigantic chief ! deep gash'd th' enormous blade,  
And for the soul an ample passage made. 530

Laogonus and Dardanus expire,  
The valiant sons of an unhappy sire ;  
Both in one instant from the chariot hurl'd,  
Sunk in one instant to the nether world ;  
This diff'rence only their sad fates afford, 535  
That one the spear destroy'd and one the sword.

Nor less unpity'd, young Alastor bleeds.  
In vain his youth, in vain his beauty pleads :  
In vain he begs thee, with a suppliant's moan,  
To spare a form, an age so like thy own ! 540  
Unhappy boy ! no pray'r, no moving art,  
E'er bent that fierce, inexorable heart !

While yet he trembled at his knees, and cry'd,  
The ruthless faulchion op'd his tender side ;  
The panting liver pours a flood of gore 545  
That drowns his bosom till he pants no more.

Thro' Mulus head then drove th' impetuous spear,  
The warrior falls, transfix'd from ear to ear.  
Thy life, Echeclus ! next the sword bereaves ;  
Deep thro' the front the pond'rous faulchion cleaves ;  
Warm'd in the brain the smoking weapon lies, 545

The purple death comes floating o'er his eyes.  
Then brave Deucalion dy'd : the dart was flung  
Where the knit nerves the pliant elbow strung ;

He



He dropt his arm, an unassisting weight, 555  
And stood all impotent, expecting fate :  
Full on his neck the falling faulchion sped,  
From his broad shoulders hew'd his crested head :  
Forth from the bone the spinal marrow flies,  
And sunk in dust, the corpse extended lies. 560  
Rhigmus, whose race from fruitful Thracia came,  
(The son of Pireus, an illustrious name),  
Succeeds to fate : the spear his belly rends ;  
Prone from his car the thund'ring chief descends :  
The squire, who saw expiring on the ground 565  
His prostrate master, rein'd the steeds around :  
He back scarce turn'd, the Pelian jav'lin gor'd ;  
And stretch'd the servant o'er his dying lord.  
As when a flame the winding valley fills,  
And runs on crackling shrubs between the hills ; 570  
Then o'er the stubble up the mountain flies,  
Fires the high woods, and blazes to the skies ;  
This way and that the spreading torrent roars :  
So sweeps the hero through the wasted shores ;  
Around him wide, immense destruction pours, 575  
And earth is delug'd with the sanguine show'rs.  
As with autumnal harvests cover'd o'er,  
And thick bestrown, lies Ceres' sacred floor,  
When round and round, with never-weary'd pain,  
The trampling steers beat out th' unnumber'd grain : 580  
So the fierce courfers, as the chariot rolls,  
Tread down whole ranks, and crush out heroes souls.  
Dash'd from their hoofs, while o'er the dead they fly,  
Black, bloody drops the smoking chariot dye :  
The spiky wheels through heaps of carnage tore ; 585  
And thick the groaning axles dropp'd with gore.  
High o'er the scene of death Achilles stood,  
All grim with dust, all horrible in blood :  
Yet still insatiate, still with rage on flame ;  
Such is the lust of never-dying fame. 590



# T H E I L I A D.

## B O O K XXI.

### T H E A R G U M E N T.

The battle in the river Scamander.

*The Trojans fly before Achilles, some towards the town, others to the river Scamander: he falls upon the latter with great slaughter, takes twelve captives alive, to sacrifice to the shade of Patroclus; and kills Lycaon and Asteropæus. Scamander attacks him with all his waves; Neptune and Pallas assist the hero; Simois joins Scamander; at length Vulcan, by the instigation of Juno, almost dries up the river. This combat ended, the other Gods engage each other. Mean-while Achilles continues the slaughter, drives the rest into Troy: Agenor only makes a stand, and is conveyed away in a cloud by Apollo; who (to delude Achilles) takes upon him Agenor's shape, and, while he pursues him in that disguise, gives the Trojans an opportunity of retiring into their city.*

*The same day continues. The scene is on the banks, and in the stream of Scamander.*

**A**ND now to Xanthus' gliding stream they drove,  
Xanthus, immortal progeny of Jove.

The river here divides the flying train,  
Part to the town fly diverse o'er the plain,  
Where late their troops triumphant bore the fight,  
Now chac'd, and trembling in ignoble flight:  
(These with a gather'd mist Saturnia shrouds,  
And rolls behind the rout a heap of clouds):



Part plunge into the stream: old Xanthus roars;  
 The flashing billows beat the whiten'd shores: 10  
 With cries promiscuous all the banks resound:  
 And here and there in eddies whirling round,  
 The flouncing steeds and thrieking warriors drown'd. }  
 As the scorch'd locusts from their fields retire,  
 While fast behind them runs the blaze of fire; 15  
 Driv'n from the land before the smoky cloud,  
 The clust'ring legions rush into the flood:  
 So plung'd in Xanthus by Achilles' force,  
 Roars the resounding surge with men and horse.  
 His bloody lance the hero casts aside, 20  
 (Which spreading tam'risks on the margin hide)  
 Then, like a God, the rapid billows braves,  
 Arm'd with his sword, high-brandish'd o'er the waves:  
 Now down he plunges, now he whirls it round,  
 Deep groan'd the waters with the dying sound; 25  
 Repeated wounds the redd'ning river dy'd,  
 And the warm purple circled on the tide.  
 Swift thro' the foamy flood the Trojans fly,  
 And close in rocks or winding caverns lie.  
 So the huge dolphin tempesteing the main, 30  
 In shoals before him fly the scaly train,  
 Confus'dly heap'd they seek their inmost caves,  
 Or pant and heave beneath the floating waves.  
 Now tir'd with slaughter, from the Trojan band  
 Twelve chosen youths he drags alive to land; 35  
 With their rich belts their captive arms constrains,  
 (Late their proud ornaments, but now their chains).  
 These his attendants to the ships convey'd,  
 Sad victims! destin'd to Patroclus' shade.  
 Then, as once more he plung'd amid the flood, 40  
 The young Lycaon in his passage stood;  
 The son of Priam, whom the hero's hand  
 But late made captive in his father's land,  
 (As from a sycamore his sounding steel  
 Lopp'd the green arms to spoke her chariot-wheel), 45  
 To Lemnos' isle he sold the royal slave,  
 Where Jason's son the price demanded gave;  
 But kind Eetion, touching on the shore,  
 The ransom'd prince to fair Arisbe bore.



Ten days were past, since in his father's reign 50  
 He felt the sweets of liberty again ;  
 The next, that God whom men in vain withstand,  
 Gives the same youth to the same conqu'ring hand ;  
 Now never to return ! and doom'd to go  
 A sadder journey to the shades below. 55  
 His well-known face when great Achilles ey'd,  
 (The helm and visor he had cast aside  
 With wild affright, and dropp'd upon the field  
 His useless lance and unavailing shield).

As trembling, panting, from the stream he fled, 60  
 And knock'd his falt'ring knees, the hero said :

Ye mighty Gods ! what wonders strike my view !  
 Is it in vain our conqu'ring arms subdue ?  
 Sure I shall see yon heaps of Trojans kill'd,  
 Rise from the shades, and brave me on the field : 65  
 As now the captive, whom so late I bound  
 And sold to Lemnos, stalks on Trojan ground !  
 Not him the sea's unmeasur'd deeps detain,  
 That bar such numbers from their native plain :  
 Lo ! he returns. Try, then, my flying spear ! 70

Try, if the grave can hold the wanderer ;  
 If earth at length this active prince can seize,  
 Earth, whose strong grasp has held down Hercules.  
 Thus while he spake, the Trojan pale with fears  
 Approach'd, and sought his knees with suppliant tears :  
 Loath as he was to yield his youthful breath, 75  
 And his soul shiv'ring at th' approach of death.

Achilles rais'd the spear, prepar'd to wound :  
 He kiss'd his feet, extended on the ground :  
 And while, above, the spear suspended stood, 80  
 Longing to dip its thirsty point in blood,  
 One hand embrac'd them close, one stopt the dart ;  
 While thus these melting words attempt his heart :

Thy well-known captive, great Achilles ! see,  
 Once more Lycaon trembles at thy knee. 85  
 Some pity to a suppliant's name afford,  
 Who shar'd the gifts of Ceres at thy board ;  
 Whom late thy conqu'ring arm to Lemnos bore,  
 Far from his father, friends, and native shore :  
 An hundred oxen were his price that day, 90  
 Now sums immense thy mercy shall repay.



Scarce respited from woes I yet appear,  
 And scarce twelve morning-suns have seen me here;  
 Lo! Jove again submits me to thy hands,  
 Again her victim cruel fate demands! 95  
 I sprung from Priam and Laothœe fair,  
 (Old Altè's daughter, and Lelegia's heir;  
 Who held in Pedasus his fam'd abode,  
 And rul'd the fields where silver Satnio flow'd).  
 Two sons (alas! unhappy sons) she bore; 100 }  
 For ah! one spear shall drink each brother's gore,  
 And I succeed to slaughter'd Polydore.  
 How from that arm of terror shall I fly?  
 Some dæmon urges! 'tis my doom to die!  
 If ever yet soft pity touch'd thy mind, 105  
 Ah! think not me too much of Hector's kind!  
 Not the same mother gave thy suppliant breath,  
 With his who wrought thy lov'd Patroclus' death.  
 These words, attended with a show'r of tears,  
 The youth address'd to unrelenting ears. 110  
 Talk not of life, or ransom, (he replies),  
 Patroclus dead, whoever meets me dies:  
 In vain a single Trojan sues for grace;  
 But least, the sons of Priam's hateful race.  
 Die then, my friend, what boots it to deplore? 115  
 The great, the good Patroclus, is no more!  
 He, far thy better, was foredoom'd to die,  
 "And thou, dost thou bewail mortality?"  
 Seest thou not me, whom nature's gifts adorn,  
 Sprung from a hero, from a Goddess born; 120  
 The day shall come (which nothing can avert)  
 When by the spear, the arrow, or the dart,  
 By night, or day, by force, or by design,  
 Impending death and certain fate are mine.  
 Die then—he said: and as the word he spoke, 125  
 The fainting stripling sunk before the stroke:  
 His hand forgot its grasp, and left the spear;  
 While all his trembling frame confess'd his fear.  
 Sudden, Achilles his broad sword display'd,  
 And buried in his neck the reeking blade. 130  
 Prone fell the youth; and panting on the land,  
 The gushing purple dy'd the thirsty sand:  
 The



The victor to the stream the carcase gave,  
 And thus insults him, floating on the wave :  
 Lie there, Lycaon ! let the fish surround  
 135 Thy bloated corse, and suck thy gory wound :  
 There no sad mother shall thy fun'ral weep,  
 But swift Scamander roll thee to the deep,  
 Whose ev'ry wave some wat'ry monster brings,  
 To feast unpunish'd on the fat of kings.  
 140 So perish Troy, and all the Trojan line !  
 Such ruin theirs, and such compassion mine.  
 What boots ye now Scamander's worshipp'd stream,  
 His earthly honours, and immortal name !  
 In vain your immolated bulls are slain,  
 145 Your living coursers glut his gulfs in vain :  
 Thus he rewards you with his bitter fate ;  
 Thus, till the Grecian vengeance is complete ;  
 Thus is aton'd Patroclus' honour'd shade,  
 And the short absence of Achilles paid.  
 150 These boastful words provoke the raging God ;  
 With fury swells the violated flood.  
 What means divine may yet the pow'r employ,  
 To check Achilles and to rescue Troy ?  
 Mean-while the hero springs in arms, to dare  
 155 The great Afteropæus to mortal war ;  
 The son of Pelagon, whose lofty line  
 Flows from the source of Axius, stream divine !  
 (Fair Peribæa's love the God had crown'd,  
 With all his reflux waters circled round).  
 160 On him Achilles rush'd : he fearless stood,  
 And shook two spears, advancing from the flood ;  
 The flood impell'd him, on Pelides' head  
 T' avenge his waters chock'd with heaps of dead.  
 Near as they drew, Achilles thus began :  
 165 What art thou, bo dest of the race of man ?  
 Who, or from whence ? Unhappy is the sire,  
 Whose son encounters our resistless ire.  
 O son of Peleus ! what avails to trace  
 (Reply'd the warrior) our illustrious race ?  
 170 From rich Pæonia's valleys I command,  
 Arm'd with protended spears my native band.  
 Now shines the tenth bright morning since I came  
 In aid of Ilion to the fields of fame :



Axius, who swells with all the neighb'ring rills, 175  
And wide around the floated region fills,  
Begot my sire, whose spear such glory won:  
Now lift thy arm, and try that hero's son!

Threat'ning he said: the hostile chiefs advance:  
At once Afteropæus discharg'd each lance, 180  
(For both his dext'rous hands the lance could wield;  
One struck, but pierc'd not the Vulcanian shield;  
One raz'd Achilles' hand; the spouting blood  
Spun forth; in earth the fasten'd weapon stood.

Like light'ning next the Pelian jav'lin flies: 185  
Its erring fury hiss'd along the skies:

Deep in the swelling bank was driv'n the spear,  
Ev'n to the middle earth'd; and quiver'd there.

Then from his side the sword Pelides drew,  
And on his foe with doubled fury flew. 190

The foe thrice tugg'd, and shook the rooted wood;  
Repulsive of his might, the weapon stood:

The fourth, he tries to break the spear, in vain;

Bent as he stands, he tumbles to the plain;

His belly open'd with a ghastly wound, 195

The reeking entrails pour upon the ground.

Beneath the hero's feet he panting lies,

And his eye darkens, and his spirit flies:

While the proud victor thus triumphing said,

His radiant armour tearing from the dead: 200

So ends thy glory! such the fate they prove

Who strive presumptuous with the sons of Jove.

Sprung from a river, didst thou boast thy line?

But great Saturnius is the source of mine.

How durst thou vaunt thy wat'ry progeny? 205

Of Peleus, Æacus, and Jove, am I;

The race of these superior far to those,

As he that thunders to the stream that flows.

What rivers can, Scamander might have shown;

But Jove he dreads, nor wars against his son. 210

Ev'n Achelöus might contend in vain,

And all the roaring billows of the main.

Th' eternal Ocean, from whose fountains flow

The seas, the rivers, and the springs below.

The thund'ring voice of Jove abhors to hear, 215

And in his deep abysses shakes with fear.

He



He said; then from the bank his jav'lin tore,  
And left the breathless warrior in his gore.  
The floating tides the bloody carcase lave,  
And beat against it, wave succeeding wave; 220  
Till roll'd between the banks, it lies, the food  
Of curling eels, and fishes of the flood.  
All scatter'd round the stream (their mightiest slain)  
Th' amaz'd Pæonians scour along the plain:  
He vents his fury on the flying crew, 225  
Thraſius, Aſttypylus, and Mneſus ſlew;  
Mydon, Therſilochus, with Ænius ſeli;  
And numbers more his lance had plung'd to hell;  
But from the bottom of his gulfs profound  
Scamander ſpoke; the ſhores return'd the ſound. 230  
O firſt of mortals! (for the Gods are thine),  
In valour matchleſs, and in force divine!  
If Jove have giv'n thee ev'ry Trojan head,  
'Tis not on me thy rage ſhould heap the dead.  
See! my chok'd ſtreams no more their courſe can keep,  
Nor roll their wonted tribute to the deep. 236  
Turn, then impetuous! from our injur'd flood;  
Content, thy ſlaughters could amaze a God.  
In human form, confeſs'd before his eyes,  
The river thus; and thus the chief replies: 240  
O ſacred ſtream! thy word we ſhall obey;  
But not till Troy the deſtin'd vengeance pay,  
Not till within her tow'rs the perjur'd train  
Shall pant, and tremble at our arms again;  
Not till proud Hector, guardian of her wall, 245  
Or ſtain this lance, or ſee Achilles fall.  
He ſaid; and drove with fury on the foe;  
Then to the Godhead of the ſilver bow  
The yellow flood began: O ſon of Jove!  
Was not the mandate of the ſire above 250  
Full and expreſs, that Phœbus ſhould employ  
His ſacred arrows in defence of Troy,  
And make her conquer, till Hyperion's fall  
In awful darkneſs hide the face of all?  
He ſpoke in vain; the chief without diſmay 255  
Ploughs thro' the boiling ſurge his deſp'rate way.  
Then riſing in his rage above the ſhores,  
From all his deep the bellowing river roars,



Huge heaps of slain disgorges on the coast,  
 And round the banks the ghastly dead are toss'd. 260  
 While all before, the billows rang'd on high  
 (A wat'ry bulwark screen the bands who fly.  
 Now bursting on his head with thund'ring sound,  
 The falling deluge whelms the hero round:  
 His loaded shield bends to the rushing tide; 265  
 His feet, upborne, scarce the strong flood divide,  
 Slidd'ring, and stagg'ring. On the border stood  
 A spreading elm, that overhung the flood:  
 He seiz'd a bending bough, his steps to stay;  
 The plant uprooted to his weight gave way, 270  
 Heaving the bank, and undermining all;  
 Loud flash the waters to the rushing fall  
 Of the thick foliage. The large trunk display'd  
 Bridg'd the rough flood across: the hero stay'd  
 On this his weight, and rais'd upon his hand, 275  
 Leap'd from the channel, and regain'd the land.  
 Then blacken'd the wild waves; the murmur rose;  
 The God pursues, a huger billow throws,  
 And bursts the bank, ambitious to destroy  
 The man whose fury is the fate of Troy. 280  
 He, like the warlike eagle, speeds his pace,  
 (Swiftest and strongest of th' aërial race);  
 Far as a spear can fly, Achilles springs  
 At ev'ry bound; his clanging armour rings:  
 Now here, now there, he turns on ev'ry side, 285  
 And winds his course before the following tide;  
 The waves flow after, wherefoe'er he wheels,  
 And gather fast, and murmur at his heels.  
 So when a peasant to his garden brings  
 Soft rills of water from the bubbling springs, 290  
 And calls the floods from high, to bless his bow'rs,  
 And feed with pregnant streams the plants and flow'rs;  
 Soon as he clears whate'er their passage staid,  
 And marks the future current with his spade,  
 Swift o'er the rolling pebbles, down the hills 295  
 Louder and louder purl the falling rills;  
 Before him scatt'ring, they prevent his pains,  
 And shine in mazy wand'rings o'er the plains.  
 Still flies Achilles, but before his eyes  
 Still swift Scamander rolls where-e'er he flies: 300  
 Not



Not all his speed escapes the rapid floods;  
 The first of men, but not a match for Gods.  
 Oft as he turn'd the torrent to oppose,  
 And bravely try if all the pow'rs were foes;  
 So oft the surge, in wat'ry mountains spread, 305  
 Beat on his back, or bursts upon his head.  
 Yet dauntless still the adverse flood he braves,  
 And still indignant bounds above the waves.  
 Tir'd by the tides, his knees relax with toil;  
 Wash'd from beneath him slides the slimy foil; 310  
 When thus (his eyes on heav'n's expansion thrown)  
 Forth burst the hero with an angry groan:

Is there no God Achilles to befriend,  
 No pow'r t'avert his miserable end?  
 Prevent, oh Jove! this ignominious date, 315  
 And make my future life the sport of fate.  
 Of all heav'n's oracles believ'd in vain,  
 But most of Thetis, must her son complain;  
 By Phœbus' darts she prophesy'd my fall,  
 In glorious arms before the Trojan wall. 320  
 Oh! had I dy'd in fields of battle warm,  
 Stretch'd like a hero, by a hero's arm!  
 Might Hector's spear this dauntless bosom rend,  
 And my swift soul o'ertake my slaughter'd friend!  
 Ah no! Achilles meets a shameful fate, 325  
 Oh how unworthy of the brave and great!  
 Like some vile swain, whom, on a rainy day,  
 Crossing a ford, the torrent sweeps away,  
 An unregarded carcase, to the sea. }

Neptune and Pallas haste to his relief, 330  
 And thus in human form address the chief:  
 The pow'r of ocean first: Forbear thy fear,  
 Oh son of Peleus: Lo, thy Gods appear!  
 Behold! from Jove descending to thy aid,  
 Propitious Neptune, and the blue-ey'd maid, 335  
 Stay, and the furious flood shall cease to rave:  
 'Tis not thy fate to glut his angry wave.  
 But thou the counsel heav'n suggests attend!  
 Nor breathe from combat, nor thy sword suspend,  
 Till Troy receive her flying sons, till all 340  
 Her routed squadrons pant behind their wall:

Hector



Hector alone shall stand his fatal chance,  
And Hector's blood shall smoke upon thy lance.  
Thine is the glory doom'd. Thus spake the Gods:  
Then swift ascended to the bright abodes. 345

Stung with new ardour, thus by heav'n impell'd,  
He springs impetuous, and invades the field:  
O'er all th' expanded plain the waters spread;  
Heav'd on the bounding billows danc'd the dead,  
Floating 'midst scatter'd arms; while casques of gold  
And turn'd up bucklers glitter'd as they roll'd. 351  
High o'er the surging tide, by leaps and bounds,  
He wades, and mounts; the parted wave resounds.  
Not a whole river stops the hero's course,  
While Pallas fills him with immortal force. 355  
With equal rage indignant Xanthus roars,  
And lifts his billows, and o'erwhelms his shores.

Then thus to Simois: Haste, my brother flood:  
And check this mortal that controls a God:  
Our bravest heroes else shall quit the fight, 360  
And Ilion tumble from her tow'ry height.  
Call then thy subject streams, and bid them roar;  
From all thy fountains swell thy wat'ry store;  
With broken rocks, and with a load of dead  
Charge the black surge, and pour it on his head. 365  
Mark how resistless through the floods he goes,  
And boldly bids the warring Gods be foes!  
But nor that force, nor form divine to fight  
Shall ought avail him, if our rage unite:  
Whelm'd under our dark gulfs those arms shall lie, 371  
That blaze so dreadful in each Trojan eye;  
And deep beneath a sandy mountain hurl'd,  
Immers'd remain this terror of the world.  
Such pond'rous ruin shall confound the place,  
No Greeks shall e'er his perish'd relics grace; 375  
No hand his bones shall gather or inhume;  
These his cold rites, and this his wat'ry tomb.

He said; and on the chief descends amain,  
Increas'd with gore, and swelling with the slain.  
Then murm'ring from his beds, he boils, he raves: 381  
And a foam whitens on the purple waves:  
At ev'ry step, before Achilles stood  
The crimson surge, and delug'd him with blood.

Fear



Fear touch'd the queen of heav'n: she saw dismay'd,  
She call'd aloud, and summon'd Vulcan's aid. 385

Rise to the war! th' insulting flood requires  
Thy wasteful arm: assemble all thy fires!  
While to their aid, by our command enjoin'd,  
Rush the swift eastern and the western wind:  
These from old ocean at my word shall blow, 390  
Pour the red torrent on the wat'ry foe,  
Corsets and arms to one bright ruin turn,  
And hissing rivers to their bottoms burn.  
Go mighty in thy rage! display thy pow'r,  
Drink the whole flood, the crackling trees devour; 395  
Scorch all the banks! and (till our voice reclaim)  
Exert th' unwearied furies of the flame!

The pow'r ignipotent her word obeys:  
Wide o'er the plain he pours the boundless blaze;  
At once consumes the dead, and dries the soil; 400  
And the shrunk waters in their channel boil.

As when autumnal Boreas sweeps the sky,  
And instant blows the water'd gardens dry:  
So look'd the field, so whiten'd was the ground,  
While Vulcan breath'd the fiery blast around. 405

Swift on the sedgey reeds the ruin preys;  
Along the margin winds the running blaze:  
The trees in flaming rows to ashes turn,  
The flow'ry lotos, and the tam'risk burn,  
Broad elm, and cypress rising in a spire; 410  
The wat'ry willows hiss before the fire.

Now glow the waves, and fishes pant for breath,  
The eels lie twisting in the pangs of death:  
Now flounce aloft, now dive the scaly fry,  
Or gasping turn their bellies to the sky. 415

At length the river rear'd his languid head,  
And thus, short-panting to the God he said:

Oh Vulcan, oh! what pow'r resists thy might?  
I faint, I sink, unequal to the fight—

I yield——Let Ilion fall; if fate decree— 420

Ah——bend no more thy fiery arms on me!

He ceas'd; wide conflagration blazing round;  
The bubbling waters yield a hissing sound.

As when the flames beneath a caldron rise,  
To melt the fat of some rich sacrifice, 425

Amid



Amid the fierce embrace of circling fires  
 The waters foam, the heavy smoke aspires :  
 So boils th' imprison'd flood, forbid to flow,  
 And chok'd with vapours, feels his bottom glow.

To Juno then, imperial queen of air, 430  
 The burning river sends his earnest pray'r:

Ah why, Saturnia? must thy son engage  
 Me, only me, with all his wasteful rage?  
 On other Gods his dreadful arm employ,  
 For mightier Gods assert the cause of Troy. 435

Submissive I desist, if thou command :  
 But ah ! withdraw this all-destroying hand.  
 Hear then my solemn oath, to yield to fate  
 Unaided Ilion, and her destin'd state,  
 Till Greece shall gird her with destructive flame, 440  
 And in one ruin sink the Trojan name.

His warm entreaty touch'd Saturnia's ear :  
 She bade th' ignipotent his rage forbear,  
 Recall the flame, nor in a mortal cause  
 Infest a God : th' obedient flame withdraws. 445  
 Again the branching streams begin to spread,  
 And soft remurmur in their wonted bed.

While these by Juno's will the strife resign,  
 When warring Gods in fierce contention join :  
 Rekindling rage each heavn'ly breast alarms ; 450  
 With horrid clangour shock'd th' æthereal arms :  
 Heav'n in loud thunder bids the trumpet sound ;  
 And wide beneath them groans the rending ground.  
 Jove, as his sport, the dreadful scene describes,  
 And views contending Gods with careless eyes. 455  
 The pow'r of battle lifts his brazen spear,  
 And first assaults the radiant queen of war.

What mov'd thy madness, thus to disunite  
 Æthereal minds, and mix all heav'n in fight ?  
 What wonder this, when in thy frantic mood 460  
 Thou drov'st a mortal to insult a God ?  
 Thy impious hand Tydides' jav'lin bore,  
 And madly bath'd it in celestial gore.

He spoke, and smote the loud-resounding shield,  
 Which bears Jove's thunder on its dreadful field ; 465  
 The adamantine ægis of her fire,  
 That turns the glancing bolt, and forked fire.



Then heav'd the Goddess in her mighty hand  
 A stone, the limit of the neighb'ring land,  
 There fix'd from eldest times; black, craggy, vast: 470  
 This at the heav'nly homicide she cast.

Thund'ring he falls; a mass of monstrous size,  
 And sev'n broad acres covers as he lies.  
 The stunning stroke his stubborn nerves unbound;  
 Loud o'er the fields his ringing arms resound: 475  
 The scornful dame her conquest views with smiles,  
 And glorying thus, the prostrate God reviles:

Hast thou not yet, insatiate fury! known  
 How far Minerva's force transcends thy own?  
 Juno, whom thou rebellious dar'st withstand, 480  
 Corrects thy folly thus by Pallas' hand;  
 Thus meets thy broken faith with just disgrace,  
 And partial aid to Troy's perfidious race.

The Goddess spoke, and turn'd her eyes away,  
 That beaming round, diffus'd celestial day. 485  
 Jove's Cyprian daughter, stooping on the land,  
 Lent to the wounded God her tender hand:  
 Slowly he rises, scarcely breathes with pain,  
 And propt on her fair arm, forsakes the plain.  
 This the bright empress of the heav'ns survey'd, 490  
 And scoffing thus, to war's victorious maid:

Lo! what an aid on Mars's side is seen!  
 The Smiles and Loves unconquerable Queen!  
 Mark with what insolence, in open view,  
 She moves: let Pallas, if she dares, pursue. 495

Minerva, smiling, heard the pair o'ertook,  
 And slightly on her breast the wanton strook:  
 She, unresisting, fell: (her spirits fled);  
 On earth together lay the lovers spread.  
 And like these heroes, be the fate of all 500  
 (Minerva cries) who guard the Trojan wall!  
 To Grecian Gods such let the Phrygian be,  
 So dread, so fierce, as Venus is to me;  
 Then from the lowest stone shall Troy be mov'd——  
 Thus she, and Juno with a smile approv'd. 505

Mean-time to mix in more than mortal fight,  
 The God of ocean dares the God of light.  
 What sloth hath seiz'd us, when the fields around  
 Ring with conflicting pow'rs, and heav'n returns the sound?



Shall, ignominious, we with shame retire, 510  
No deed perform'd, to our Olympian fire?

Come, prove thy arm! for first the war to wage,  
Suits not my greatness, or superior age.

Rash as thou art to prop the Trojan throne,  
(Forgetful of my wrongs, and of thy own), 515 }  
And guard the race of proud Laomedon!

Hast thou forgot, how, at the monarch's pray'r,  
We shar'd the length'n'd labours of a year?

Troy walls I rais'd, (for such were Jove's commands),  
And yon proud bulwarks grew beneath my hands: 520

Thy task it was to feed the bellowing droves

Along fair Ida's vales, and pendent groves.

But when the circling seasons in their train

Brought back the grateful day that crown'd our pain;

With menace stern the fraudulent king defy'd 525

Our latent godhead, and the prize deny'd:

Mad as he was, he threaten'd servile bands,

And doom'd us exiles far in barb'rous lands.

Incens'd, we heav'nward fled with swiftest wing,

And destin'd vengeance on the perjur'd king. 530

Dost thou, for this, afford proud Ilion grace,

And not, like us, infest the faithless race?

Like us, their present, future sons destroy,

And from its deep foundations heave their Troy?

Apollo thus: To combat for mankind 535

Ill suits the wisdom of celestial mind:

For what is man? Calamitous by birth,

They owe their life and nourishment to earth;

Like yearly leaves, that now, with beauty crown'd,

Smile on the sun; now, wither on the ground, 540

To their own hands commit the frantic scene,

Nor mix immortals in a cause so mean.

Then turns his face, far-beaming heav'nly fires,

And from the senior pow'r, submits retires.

Him, thus retreating, Artemis upbraids, 545

The quiver'd huntress of the silvan shades.

And is it thus the youthful Phœbus flies,

And yields to ocean's hoary sire the prize?

How vain that martial pomp, and dreadful show

Of pointed arrows, and the silver bow! 550

Now



Now boast no more, in yon celestial bow'r,  
Thy force can match the great earth-shaking pow'r.

Silent, he heard the queen of woods upbraid:

Not so Saturnia bore the vaunting maid;

But furious thus: What insolence has driv'n

555

Thy pride to face the majesty of heav'n?

What tho' by Jove the female plague design'd,

Fierce to the feeble race of womankind,

The wretched matron feels thy piercing dart;

Thy sex's tyrant, with a tyger's heart?

560

What tho' tremendous in the woodland chace,

Thy certain arrows pierce the savage race!

How dares thy rashness on the pow'rs divine

Employ those arms, or match thy force with mine?

Learn hence no more unequal war to wage—

565

She said, and seiz'd her wrists with eager rage;

These in her left hand lock'd, her right unty'd

The bow, the quiver, and its plummy pride.

About her temples flies the busy bow;

Now here, now there, she winds her from the blow; 570

The scatt'ring arrows, rattling from the case,

Drop round, and idly mark the dusty place.

Swift from the field the baffled huntress flies,

And scarce restrains the torrent in her eyes.

So when the falcon wings her way above,

575

To the cleft cavern speeds the gentle dove,

(Not fated yet to die), there safe retreats,

Yet still her heart against the marble beats.

To her Latona hastes with tender care;

Whom Hermes viewing, thus declines the war:

580

How shall I face the dame, who gives delight

To him whose thunders blacken heav'n with night?

Go, matchless Goddess! triumph in the skies,

And boast my conquest, while I yield the prize.

He spoke, and pass'd: Latona, stooping low,

585

Collects the scatter'd shafts, and fallen bow,

That, glitt'ring in the dust, lay here and there;

Dishonour'd relics of Diana's war:

Then swift pursu'd her to her blest'd abode,

Where, all confus'd, she sought the Sov'reign God; 590

Weeping she grasp'd his knees: th' ambrosial vest

Shook with her sighs, and panted on her breast.



The fire superior smil'd; and bade her show  
 What heav'nly hand had caus'd his daughter's woe?  
 Abash'd she names his own imperial spouse; 595  
 And the pale crescent fades upon her brows.

Thus they above: while swiftly gliding down,  
 Apollo enters Ilion's sacred town:  
 The guardian-god now trembled for her wall,  
 And fear'd the Greeks, tho' fate forbade her fall. 600  
 Back to Olympus, from the war's alarms,  
 Return the shining bands of Gods in arms:  
 Some proud in triumph, some with rage on fire;  
 And take their thrones around th' æthereal fire.

Thro' blood, thro' death, Achilles still proceeds, 605  
 O'er slaughter'd heroes, and o'er rolling steeds.  
 As when avenging flames with fury driv'n  
 On guilty towns exert the wrath of heav'n;  
 The pale inhabitants, some fall, some fly;  
 And the red vapours purple all the sky: 610  
 So rag'd Achilles: death and dire dismay,  
 And toils, and terrors, fill'd the dreadful day.  
 High on a turret hoary Priam stands,  
 And marks the waste of his destructive hands;  
 Views, from his arm, the Trojans scatter'd flight, 615  
 And the near hero rising on his sight!  
 No stop, no check, no aid! With fable pace,  
 And settled sorrow on his aged face,  
 Fast as he could, he fighting quits the walls;  
 And thus, descending, on the guards he calls: 620

You to whose care our city gates belong,  
 Set wide your portals to the flying throng:  
 For lo! he comes, with unresisted sway;  
 He comes, and desolation marks his way!  
 But when within the walls our troops take breath, 625  
 Lock fast the brazen bars, and shut out death.  
 Thus charg'd the rev'rend monarch: wide were flung  
 The op'ning folds; the sounding hinges rung.  
 Phœbus rush'd forth, the flying bands to meet,  
 Struck slaughter back, and cover'd the retreat. 630  
 On heaps the Trojans croud to gain the gate,  
 And glad some see their last escape from fate.  
 Thither, all parch'd with thirst, a heartless train!  
 Hoary with dust, they beat the hollow plain:

And



And gasping, panting, fainting, labour on 635  
 With heavier strides, that lengthen tow'rd the town.  
 Enrag'd Achilles follows with his spear;  
 Wild with revenge, insatiable of war.

Then had the Greeks eternal praise acquir'd,  
 And Troy inglorious to her walls retir'd; 640  
 But \* he, the God who darts æthereal flame,  
 Shot down to save her, and redeem her fame.

To young Agenor force divine he gave,  
 (Antenor's offspring, haughty, bold, and brave);  
 In aid of him, beside the beech he sat, 645  
 And, wrapt in clouds, restrain'd the hand of fate.  
 When now the gen'rous youth Achilles spies,  
 Thick beats his heart, the troubled motions rise,  
 (So, ere a storm, the waters heave and roll);  
 He stops, and questions thus his mighty soul: 650

What, shall I fly this terror of the plain;  
 Like others fly, and be like others slain?  
 Vain hope! to shun him by the self-same road  
 Yon line of slaughter'd Trojans lately trod.  
 No: with the common heap I scorn to fall—— 655

What if they pass'd me to the Trojan wall,  
 While I decline to yonder path, that leads  
 To Ida's forests and surrounding shades?  
 So may I reach, conceal'd, the cooling flood,  
 From my tir'd body wash the dirt and blood, 660  
 As soon as night her dusky veil extends,  
 Return in safety to my Trojan friends.

What if——But wherefore all this vain debate?  
 Stand I to doubt, within the reach of fate?  
 Ev'n now perhaps, ere yet I turn the wall, 665  
 The fierce Achilles see me, and I fall:

Such is his swiftness, 'tis in vain to fly;  
 And such his valour, that who stands must die.  
 Howe'er 'tis better, fighting for the state,  
 Here, and in public view, to meet my fate. 670

Yet sure he too is mortal; he may feel  
 (Like all the sons of earth) the force of steel;  
 One only soul informs that dreadful frame;  
 And Jove's sole favour gives him all his fame.

\* Apollo.



He said, and stood, collected in his might; 675  
 And all his beating bosom claim'd the fight.  
 So from some deep-grown wood a panther starts,  
 Rous'd from his thicket by a storm of darts:  
 Untaught to fear or fly, he hears the sounds  
 Of shouting hunters, and of clam'rous hounds; 680  
 Tho' struck, tho' wounded, scarce perceives the pain;  
 And the barb'd jav'lin stings his breast in vain:  
 On their whole war, untam'd, the savage flies;  
 And tears his hunter, or beneath him dies.  
 Not less resolv'd, Antenor's valiant heir 685  
 Confronts Achilles, and awaits the war,  
 Disdainful of retreat: high held before,  
 His shield (a broad circumference) he bore;  
 Then graceful as he stood, in act to throw  
 The lifted jav'lin, thus bespoke the foe: 690  
 How proud Achilles glories in his fame!  
 And hopes this day to sink the Trojan name  
 Beneath her ruins! Know, that hope is vain;  
 A thousand woes, a thousand toils remain.  
 Parents and children our just arms employ, 695  
 And strong and many are the sons of Troy.  
 Great as thou art, ev'n thou may'st stain with gore  
 These Phrygian fields, and press a foreign shore.  
 He said: with matchless force the jav'lin flung,  
 Smote on his knee; the hollow cuishes rung 700  
 Beneath the pointed steel; but safe from harms  
 He stands impassive in th' æthereal arms.  
 Then fiercely rushing on the daring foe,  
 His lifted arm prepares the fatal blow:  
 But, jealous of his fame, Apollo shrouds 705  
 The godlike Trojan in a veil of clouds.  
 Safe from pursuit, and shut from mortal view,  
 Dismiss'd with fame, the favour'd youth withdrew.  
 Mean-while the God, to cover their escape,  
 Assumes Agenor's habit, voice, and shape, 710  
 Flies from the furious chief in this disguise;  
 The furious chief still follows where he flies.  
 Now o'er the fields they stretch with lengthen'd strides,  
 Now urge the course where swift Scamander glides:  
 The God now distant scarce a stride before, 715  
 Tempts his pursuit, and wheels about the shore;  
 While



While all the flying troops their speed employ,  
And pour on heaps into the walls of Troy.

No stop, no stay; no thought to ask, or tell,  
Who 'scap'd by flight, or who by battle fell.

720

'Twas tumult all, and violence of flight;

And sudden joy confus'd, and mix'd affright!

Pale Troy against Achilles shuts her gate;

And nations breathe, deliver'd from their fate.

THE



T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K XXII.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The death of Hector.

*The Trojans being safe within the walls, Hector only stays to oppose Achilles. Priam is struck at his approach, and tries to persuade his son to re-enter the town. Hecuba joins her entreaties, but in vain. Hector consults within himself what measures to take; but at the advance of Achilles, his resolution fails him, and he flies: Achilles pursues him thrice round the walls of Troy. The Gods debate concerning the fate of Hector; at length Minerva descends to the aid of Achilles. She deludes Hector in the shape of Deiphobus: he stands the combat, and is slain. Achilles drags the dead body at his chariot, in the sight of Priam and Hecuba. Their lamentations, tears, and despair. Their cries reach the ears of Andromache, who, ignorant of this, was retired into the inner part of the palace: she mounts up to the walls, and beholds her dead husband. She swoons at the spectacle. Her excess of grief and lamentation.*

*The thirtieth day still continues. The scene lies under the walls, and on the battlements of Troy.*

**T**HUS to their bulwarks, smit with panic fear,  
The herded Ilians rush like driven deer;  
There safe, they wipe the briny drops away,  
And drown in bowls the labours of the day.

Close



Close to the walls, advancing o'er the fields, 5  
 Beneath one roof of well-compacted shields,  
 March, bending on, the Greeks embody'd pow'rs,  
 Far-stretching in the shade of Trojan tow'rs.  
 Great Hector singly staid; chain'd down by fate,  
 There fix'd he stood before the Scæan gate; 10  
 Still his bold arms determin'd to employ,  
 The guardian still of long-defended Troy.

Apollo now to tir'd Achilles turns;  
 (The pow'r confess'd in all his glory burns);  
 And what (he cries) has Peleus' son in view, 15  
 With mortal speed a Godhead to pursue?  
 For not to thee to know the Gods is giv'n,  
 Unskill'd to trace the latent marks of heav'n.  
 What boots thee now, that Troy forsook the plain?  
 Vain thy past labour, and thy present vain: 20  
 Safe in her walls are now her troops bestow'd,  
 While here thy frantic rage attacks a God.  
 The chief, incens'd—Too partial God of day!  
 To check my conquests in the middle way:  
 How few in Ilion else had refuge found? 25  
 What gasping numbers now had bit the ground?  
 Thou robb'st me of a glory justly mine,  
 Pow'rful of Godhead, and of fraud divine:  
 Mean fame, alas! for one of heav'nly strain,  
 To cheat a mortal, who repines in vain. 30

Then to the city, terrible and strong,  
 With high and haughty steps he tow'r'd along.  
 So the proud courser, victor of the prize,  
 To the near goal with double ardour flies.  
 Him, as he blazing shot across the field, 35  
 The careful eyes of Priam first beheld.  
 Not half so dreadful rises to the sight,  
 Thro' the thick gloom of some tempestuous night,  
 Orion's dog, (the year when autumn weighs),  
 And o'er the feebler stars exerts his rays; 40  
 Terrific glory! for his burning breath  
 Taints the red air with fevers, plagues, and death.  
 So flam'd his fiery mail. Then wept the sage;  
 He strikes his rev'rend head now white with age;  
 He lifts his wither'd arms: obtests the skies; 45  
 He calls his much-lov'd son with feeble cries:

The



The son, resolv'd Achilles' force to dare,  
 Full at the Scæan gates expects the war;  
 While the sad father on the rampart stands,  
 And thus adjures him with extended hands: 50

Ah stay not, stay not! guardless and alone:  
 Hector! my lov'd, my dearest, bravest son!  
 Methinks already I behold thee slain,  
 And stretch'd beneath that fury of the plain.  
 Implacable Achilles! might'st thou be 55  
 To all the Gods no dearer than to me!

Thee Vultures wild should scatter round the shore,  
 And bloody dogs grow fiercer from thy gore.  
 How many valiant sons I late enjoy'd,  
 Valiant in vain! by thy curs'd arm destroy'd; 60  
 Or, worse than slaughter'd, sold in distant isles  
 To shameful bondage and unworthy toils.

Two, while I speak, my eyes in vain explore,  
 Two from one mother sprung, my Polydore,  
 And lov'd Lycaon; now perhaps no more! 65

Oh! if in yonder hostile camp they live,  
 What heaps of gold, what treasures would I give?  
 (Their grandfire's wealth by right of birth their own,  
 Consign'd his daughter with Lelegia's throne),  
 But if (which heav'n forbid) already lost; 70

All pale they wander on the Stygian coast;  
 What sorrows then must their sad mother know,  
 What anguish I? unutterable woe!  
 Yet less that anguish, less to her, to me,  
 Less to all Troy, if not depriv'd of thee. 75

Yet shun Achilles! enter yet the wall;  
 And spare thyself, thy father, spare us all!  
 Save thy dear life; or if a soul so brave  
 Neglect that thought, thy dearer glory save.  
 Pity, while yet I live, these silver hairs; 80

While yet thy father feels the woes he bears,  
 Yet curs'd with sense! a wretch, whom in his rage  
 (All trembling on the verge of helpless age)  
 Great Jove has plac'd, sad spectacle of pain!  
 The bitter dregs of fortune's cup to drain; 85

To fill with scenes of death his closing eyes,  
 And number all his days by miseries!

My



My heroes slain, my bridal bed o'erturn'd,  
 My daughters ravish'd, and my city burn'd,  
 My bleeding infants dash'd against the floor ; 90  
 These I have yet to see, perhaps yet more !

Perhaps ev'n I, reserv'd by angry fate  
 The last sad relic of my ruin'd state,  
 (Dire pomp of sov'reign wretchedness !) must fall,  
 And stain the pavement of my regal hall ; 95  
 Where famish'd dogs, late guardians of my door,  
 Shall lick their mangled master's spatter'd gore.

Yet for my sons I thank ye Gods ! 'twas well ;  
 Well have they perish'd, for in fight they fell.  
 Who dies in youth and vigour dies the best, 100  
 Struck thro' with wounds, all honest on the breast.  
 But when the fates, in fulness of their rage,

Spurn the hoar head of unresisting age,  
 In dust the rev'rend lineaments deform,  
 And pour to dogs the life-blood scarcely warm ! 105  
 This, this is misery ! the last, the worst  
 That man can feel ; man, fated to be curst !

He said : and acting what no words could say,  
 Rent from his head the silver locks away.  
 With him the mournful mother bears a part ; 110  
 Yet all their sorrows turn not Hector's heart :  
 The zone unbrac'd, her bosom she display'd ;  
 And thus, fast falling the salt tears, she said :

Have mercy on me, O my son ! revere  
 The words of age ; attend a parent's pray'r ! 115  
 If ever thee in these fond arms I prest,  
 Or still'd thy infant clamours at this breast ;  
 Ah do not thus our helpless years forego !  
 But by our walls secur'd, repel the foe.

Against his rage if singly thou proceed, 120  
 Shouldst thou (but heav'n avert it !), shouldst thou bleed,  
 Not must thy corpse lie honour'd on the bier,  
 Nor spouse, nor mother, grace thee with a tear ;  
 Far from our pious rites, those dear remains  
 Must feast the vultures on the naked plains. 125

So they, while down their cheeks the torrents roll ;  
 But fix'd remains the purpose of his soul :  
 Resolv'd he stands, and with a fiery glance  
 Expects the hero's terrible advance.



So roll'd up in his den, the swelling snake 130  
 Beholds the traveller approach the brake;  
 When fed with noxious herbs, his turgid veins  
 Have gather'd half the poisons of the plains;  
 He burns, he stiffens, with collected ire,  
 And his red eye balls glare with living fire. 135  
 Beneath a turret, on his shield reclin'd,  
 He stood, and question'd thus his mighty mind:  
 Where lies my way? to enter in the wall?  
 Honour and shame th' ungen'rous thought recall:  
 Shall proud Polydamas before the gate 140  
 Proclaim, his counsels are obey'd too late,  
 Which timely follow'd but the former night,  
 What numbers had been sav'd by Hector's flight?  
 That wise advice rejected with disdain,  
 I feel my folly in my people slain. 145  
 Methinks my suff'ring country's voice I hear,  
 But most, her worthless sons insult my ear,  
 On my rash courage charge the chance of war,  
 And blame those virtues which they cannot share.  
 No—if I e'er return, return I must 150  
 Glorious, my country's terror laid in dust:  
 Or if I perish, let her see me fall  
 In field at least, and fighting for her wall.  
 And yet suppose these measures I forego,  
 Approach unarm'd, and parley with the foe, 155  
 The warrior shield, the helm and lance lay down,  
 And treat on terms of peace to save the town:  
 The wife with-held, the treasure ill detain'd,  
 (Cause of the war, and grievance of the land).  
 With honourable justice to restore; 160  
 And add half Ilion's yet remaining store,  
 Which Troy shall, sworn, produce; that injur'd Greece  
 May share our wealth, and leave our walls in peace.  
 But why this thought? Unarm'd if I should go,  
 What hope of mercy from this vengeful foe, 165  
 But woman-like to fall, and fall without a blow?  
 We greet not here, as man conversing man,  
 Met at an oak, or journeying o'er a plain;  
 No season now for calm familiar talk,  
 Like youths and maidens in an evening-walk: 170



War is our bus'ness ; but to whom is giv'n  
To die, or triumph, that determine heav'n !

Thus pond'ring, like a God the Greek drew nigh ;  
His dreadful plumage nodded from on high :  
The Pelian jav'lin, in his better hand, 175  
Shot trembling rays that glitter'd o'er the land ;  
And on his breast the beamy splendors shone  
Like Jove's own light'ning or the rising sun.

As Hector sees, unusual terrors rise ;  
Struck by some God, he fears, recedes, and flies. 180  
He leaves the gates, he leaves the walls behind ;  
Achilles follows like the winged wind.

Thus at the panting dove a falcon flies,  
(The swiftest racer of the liquid skies),  
Just when he holds, or thinks he holds his prey, 185  
Obliquely wheeling through the ærial way ;

With open beak and shrilling cries he springs,  
And aims his claws, and shoots upon his wings :  
No less fore-right their rapid chace they held,  
One urg'd by fury, one by fear impell'd ; 190

Now circling round the walls their course maintain,  
Where the high watch-tow'r overlooks the plain ;  
Now where the fig-trees spread their umbrage broad,  
(A wider compass), smoke along the road.

Next by Scamander's double source they bound, 195  
Where two fam'd fountains burst the parted ground ;  
This hot thro' scorching clefts is seen to rise,  
With exhalations steaming to the skies ;

That the green banks in summer's heat o'erflows,  
Like crystal clear, and cold as winter-snows. 200

Each gushing fount a marble cistern fills,  
Whose polish'd bed receives the falling rills ;  
Where Trojan dames (e'er yet alarm'd by Greece)  
Wash'd their fair garments in the days of peace.

By these they pass'd, one chacing, one in flight, 205  
(The mighty fled, pursu'd by stronger might) ;  
Swift was the course ; no vulgar prize they play,  
No vulgar victim must reward the day,

(Such as in races crown the speedy strife),  
The prize contended was great Hector's life. 210

As when some hero's fun'ral is decreed  
In grateful honour of the mighty dead ;



Where high rewards the vig'rous youth inflame,  
 (Some golden tripod, or some lovely dame),  
 The panting courfers swiftly turn the goal, 215  
 And with them turns the rais'd spectator's soul.  
 Thus three times round the Trojan wall they fly,  
 The gazing Gods lean forward from the sky;  
 To whom, while eager on the chace they look,  
 The fire of mortals and immortals spoke. 220

Unworthy sight! the man belov'd of heav'n,  
 Behold, inglorious round yon city driv'n!  
 My heart partakes the gen'rous Hector's pain;  
 Hector, whose zeal whole hecatombs has slain;  
 Whose grateful fumes the Gods receiv'd with joy, 225  
 From Ida's summits and the tow'rs of Troy:  
 Now see him flying! to his fears resign'd,  
 And fate, and fierce Achilles, close behind.  
 Consult, ye pow'rs! ('tis worthy your debate),  
 Whether to snatch him from impending fate, 230  
 Or let him bear, by stern Pelides slain,  
 (Good as he is), the lot impos'd on man?

Then Pallas thus: Shall he whose vengeance forms  
 The forked bolt, and blackens heav'n with storms,  
 Shall he prolong one Trojan's forfeit breath! 235  
 A man, a mortal, pre-ordain'd to death!  
 And will no murmurs fill the courts above?  
 No Gods indignant blame their partial Jove?

Go then (return'd the fire) without delay,  
 Exert thy will: I give the fates their way. 240  
 Swift at the mandate pleas'd Tritonia flies,  
 And stoops impetuous from the cleaving skies.

As through the forest, o'er the vale and lawn  
 The well-breath'd beagle drives the flying fawn;  
 In vain he tries the covert of the brakes, 245  
 Or peep beneath the trembling thicket shakes;  
 Sure of the vapour in the tainted dew,  
 The certain hound his various maze pursues.  
 Thus step by step, where-e'er the Trojan wheel'd,  
 There swift Achilles compass'd round the field. 250  
 Oft as to reach the Dardan gates he bends,  
 And hopes th' assistance of his pitying friends,  
 (Whose show'ring arrows, as he cours'd below,  
 From the high turrets might oppress the foe),



So oft Achilles turns him to the plain : 255  
He eyes the city, but he eyes in vain.

As men in slumbers seem with speedy pace  
One to pursue, and one to lead the chace ;  
Their sinking limbs the fancy'd course forsake,  
Nor this can fly, nor that can overtake : 260  
No less the lab'ring heroes pant and strain ;  
While that but flies, and this pursues in vain.

What God, O Muse ! assisted Hector's force,  
With fate itself so long to hold the course ?  
Phœbus it was ; who in his latest hour, 265  
Endu'd his knees with strength, his nerves with pow'r.  
And great Achilles, lest some Greeks advance  
Should snatch the glory from his lifted lance,  
Sign'd to the troops, to yield his foe the way,  
And leave untouch'd the honours of the day. 270

Jove lifts the golden balances, that show  
The fates of mortal men, and things below :  
Here each contending hero's lot he tries,  
And weighs, with equal hand, their destinies.  
Low sinks the scale surcharg'd with Hector's fate : 275  
Heavy with death it sinks, and hell receives the weight.

Then Phœbus left him. Fierce Minerva flies  
To stern Pelides, and, triumphing, cries :  
Oh lov'd of Jove ! this day our labours cease,  
And conquest blazes with full beams on Greece. 280  
Great Hector falls ; that Hector fam'd so far,  
Drunk with renown, insatiable of war,  
Falls by thy hand and mine ! nor force nor flight  
Shall more avail him, nor his God of light.

See, where in vain he supplicates above, 285  
Roll'd at the feet of unrelenting Jove !  
Rest here : myself will lead the Trojan on,  
And urge to meet the fate he cannot shun.

Her voice divine the chief with joyful mind  
Obey'd ; and rested, on his lance reclin'd. 290  
While like Deiphobus the martial dame,  
(Her face, her gesture, and her arms the same),  
In show an aid, by hapless Hector's side  
Approach'd, and greets him thus with voice bely'd :

Too long, O Hector ! have I borne the fight 295  
Of this distress, and sorrow'd in thy flight :



It fits us now a noble stand to make,  
And here, as brothers, equal fates partake.

Then he: O prince! ally'd in blood and fame,  
Dearer than all that own a brother's name; 300  
Of all that Hecuba to Priam bore,  
Long try'd, long lov'd; much lov'd, but honour'd more!  
Since you, of all our num'rous race, alone  
Defend my life, regardless of your own.

Again the Goddess: Much my father's pray'r, 305  
And much my mother's, press'd me to forbear:  
My friends embrac'd my knees, adjur'd my stay;  
But stronger love impell'd, and I obey.  
Come then, the glorious conflict let us try,  
Let the steel sparkle, and the jav'lin fly; 310  
Or let us stretch Achilles on the field,  
Or to his arm our bloody trophies yield.

Fraudful she said: then swiftly march'd before:  
The Dardan hero shuns his foe no more.  
Sternly they met. The silence Hector broke; 315  
His dreadful plumage nodded as he spoke.

Enough, O son of Peleus! Troy has view'd  
Her walls thrice circled, and her chief pursu'd.  
But now some God within me bids me try  
Thine, or my fate: I kill thee, or I die. 320  
Yet on the verge of battle let us stay,  
And for a moment's space suspend the day;  
Let heav'n's high pow'rs be call'd to arbitrate  
The just conditions of this stern debate;  
(Eternal witnesses of all below, 325  
And faithful guardians of the treasur'd vow!)  
To them I swear; if victor in the strife,  
Jove by these hands shall shed thy noble life.  
No vile dishonour shall thy corpse pursue;  
Stript of its arms alone (the conqu'rors due), 330  
The rest to Greece uninjur'd I'll restore:  
Now plight thy mutual oath, I ask no more.

Talk not of oaths, (the dreadful chief replies,  
While anger flash'd from his disdainful eyes)  
Detested as thou art, and ought to be, 335  
Nor oath nor pact Achilles plights with thee:  
Such pacts as lambs and rabid wolves combine,  
Such leagues as men and furious lions join,

To



To such I call the Gods ! one constant state  
Of lasting rancour and eternal hate :

340

No thought but rage, and never-ceasing strife,  
Till death extinguish rage, and thought, and life.

Rouse then thy forces this important hour,  
Collect thy soul, and call forth all thy pow'r.

No farther subterfuge, no farther chance ;

345

'Tis Pallas, Pallas gives thee to my lance.

Each Grecian ghost by thee depriv'd of breath,

Now hovers round, and calls thee to thy death.

He spoke, and launch'd his jav'lin at the foe ;

But Hector shunn'd the meditated blow :

350

He stoop'd, while o'er his head the flying spear

Sung innocent, and spent its force in air.

Minerva watch'd it falling on the land,

Then drew, and gave to great Achilles' hand

Unseen of Hector, who elate with joy,

355

Now shakes his lance, and braves the dread of Troy.

The life you boasted to that jav'lin giv'n,

Prince ! you have miss'd. My fate depends on heav'n,

To thee (presumptuous as thou art) unknown,

Or what must prove my fortune, or thy own.

360

Boasting is but an art, our fears to blind,

And with false terrors sink another's mind.

But know, whatever fate I am to try,

By no dishonest wound shall Hector die ;

I shall not fall a fugitive at least,

365

My soul shall bravely issue from my breast ;

But first try thou my arm ; and may this dart

End all my country's woes, deep bury'd in thy heart !

The weapon flew, its course unerring held,

Unerring, but the heav'nly shield repell'd

370

The mortal dart ; resulting with a bound

From off the ringing orb, it struck the ground.

Hector beheld his jav'lin fall in vain,

Nor other lance, nor other hope remain ;

He calls Deiphobus, demands a spear,

375

In vain, for no Deiphobus was there.

All comfortless he stands ; then, with a sigh :

'Tis so—heav'n wills it, and my hour is nigh !

I deem'd Deiphobus had heard my call ;

But he secure lies guarded in the wall.

380



A God deceiv'd me; Pallas, 'twas thy deed:  
 Death and black fate approach! 'tis I must bleed.  
 No refuge now, no succour from above;  
 Great Jove deserts me, and the son of Jove,  
 Propitious once, and kind! Then welcome fate! 385  
 'Tis true I perish, yet I perish great;  
 Yet in a mighty deed I shall expire;  
 Let future ages hear it, and admire!

Fierce, at the word, his weighty sword he drew,  
 And, all collected, on Achilles flew. 390

So Jove's bold bird, high balanc'd in the air,  
 Stoops from the clouds to truss the quiv'ring hare.  
 Nor less Achilles his fierce soul prepares;  
 Before his breast the flaming shield he bears,  
 Refulgent orb! above his fourfold cone 395

The gilded horse-hair sparkled in the sun,  
 Nodding at ev'ry step, (Vulcanian frame!)  
 And as he mov'd his figure seem'd on flame.  
 As radiant Hesper shines with keener light,  
 Far-beaming o'er the silver host of night, 400

When all the starry train emblaze the sphere;  
 So shone the point of great Achilles' spear.  
 In his right hand he waves the weapon round,  
 Eyes the whole man, and meditates the wound:  
 But the rich mail Patroclus lately wore, 405  
 Securely cas'd the warrior's body o'er.

One place at length he spies to let in fate,  
 Where 'twixt the neck and throat the jointed plate  
 Gave entrance: through that penetrable part  
 Furious he drove the well-directed dart: 410

Nor pierc'd the windpipe yet, nor took the pow'r  
 Of speech, unhappy! from thy dying hour.  
 Prone on the field, the bleeding warrior lies,  
 While thus, triumphing, stern Achilles cries:

At last is Hector stretch'd upon the plain, 415  
 Who fear'd no vengeance for Patroclus slain:  
 Then, prince! you should have fear'd what now you feel:  
 Achilles absent, was Achilles still.

Yet a short space the great avenger staid,  
 Then low in dust thy strength and glory laid. 420  
 Peaceful he sleeps, with all our rites adorn'd,  
 For ever honour'd and for ever mourn'd:

While



While cast to all the rage of hostile pow'r,  
The birds shall mangle, and the dogs devour.

Then Hector, fainting at th' approach of death : 425  
By thy own soul ! by those that gave thee breath !

By all the sacred prevalence of pray'r !

Ah ! leave me not for Grecian dogs to tear !

The common rites of sepulture bestow,

To sooth a father's and a mother's woe ;

430

Let their large gifts procure an urn at least,

And Hector's ashes in his country rest.

No, wretch accurs'd ; relentless he replies,

(Flames, as he spoke, shot flashing from his eyes) ;

Not those who gave me breath, should bid me spare, 435

Nor all the sacred prevalence of pray'r.

Could I myself the bloody banquet join !

No—to the dogs that carcase I resign.

Should Troy, to bribe me, bring forth all her store,

And giving thousands, offer thousands more ;

440

Should Dardan Priam, and his weeping dame,

Drain their whole realm to buy one fun'ral flame ;

Their Hector on the pile they should not see,

Nor rob the vultures of one limb of thee.

Then thus the chief his dying accents drew :

445

Thy rage, implacable ! too well I knew :

The furies that relentless breast have steel'd,

And curs'd thee with a heart that cannot yield.

Yet think, a day will come, when fate's decree

And angry Gods shall wreak this wrong on thee ;

450

Phœbus and Paris shall avenge my fate,

And stretch thee here, before this Scæan gate.

He ceas'd. The fates suppress'd his lab'ring breath,

And his eyes stiffen'd at the hand of death ;

To the dark realm the spirit wings its way,

455

(The manly body left a load of clay) ;

And plaintive glides along the dreary coast,

A naked, wand'ring, melancholy ghost !

Achilles, musing as he roll'd his eyes

O'er the dead hero, thus (unheard) replies :

460

Die thou the first ! When Jove and heav'n ordain,

I follow thee——He said, and stripp'd the slain.

Then forcing backward from the gaping wound

The reeking jav'lin, cast it on the ground.

The



The thronging Greeks behold with wond'ring eyes 465  
His manly beauty and superior size:

While some ignobler, the great dead deface  
With wounds ungen'rous, or with taunts disgrace:  
"How chang'd that Hector! who like Jove of late  
"Sent light'ning on our fleets, and scatter'd fate?" 470

High o'er the slain the great Achilles stands,  
Begirt with heroes, and surrounding bands;  
And thus aloud, while all the host attends:  
Princes and leaders! countrymen and friends!  
Since now at length the pow'rful will of heav'n 475  
The dire destroyer to our arm has given,  
Is not Troy fall'n already? Haste, ye pow'rs!  
See, if already their deserted tow'rs

Are left unmann'd, or if they yet retain  
The souls of heroes, their great Hector slain? 480  
But what is Troy, or glory what to me?

Or why reflects my mind on ought but thee,  
Divine Patroclus! Death has seal'd his eyes;  
Unwept, unhonour'd, uninterr'd he lies!  
Can his dear image from my soul depart, 485  
Long as the vital spirit moves my heart!

If, in the melancholy shades below,  
The flames of friends and lovers cease to glow,  
Yet mine shall sacred last; mine undecay'd,  
Burn on thro' death, and animate my shade. 490

Mean while, ye sons of Greece, in triumph bring  
The corpse of Hector, and your Pæans sing:  
Be this the song, slow-moving tow'rd the shore,  
"Hector is dead, and Ilion is no more."

Then his fell soul a thought of vengeance bred, 495  
(Unworthy of himself, and of the dead);

The nervous ancles bor'd, his feet he bound  
With thongs inserted through the double wound;  
These fix'd up high behind the rolling wain,  
His graceful head was trail'd along the plain. 500

Proud on his car th' insulting victor stood,  
And bore aloft his arms distilling blood.

He smites the steeds; the rapid chariot flies  
The sudden clouds of circling dust arise.  
Now lost is all that formidable air; 505

The face divine, and long descending hair,



Purple the ground, and streak the sable sand;  
 Deform'd, dishonour'd, in his native land!  
 Giv'n to the rage of an insulting throng!  
 And in his parents sight, now dragg'd along! 510  
 The mother first beheld with sad survey;  
 She rent her tresses, venerably grey,  
 And cast, far off, the regal veils away.  
 With piercing shrieks his bitter fate she moans,  
 While the sad father answers groans with groans, 515  
 Tears after tears his mournful cheeks o'erflow,  
 And the whole city wears one face of woe:  
 No less than if the rage of hostile fires,  
 From her foundations curling to her spires,  
 O'er the proud citadel at length should rise, 520  
 And the last blaze send Ilion to the skies.  
 The wretched monarch of the falling state,  
 Distracted, presses to the Dardan gate.  
 Scarce the whole people stop his desp'rate course,  
 While strong affliction gives the feeble force: 525  
 Grief tears his heart, and drives him to and fro,  
 In all the raging impotence of woe.  
 At length he roll'd in dust, and thus begun,  
 Imploring all, and naming one by one:  
 Ah! let me, let me go where sorrow calls; 530  
 I, only I, will issue from your walls,  
 (Guide or companion, friends! I ask you none),  
 And bow before the murd'rer of my son.  
 My grief perhaps his pity may engage;  
 Perhaps at least he may respect my age. 535  
 He has a father too; a man like me;  
 One, not exempt from age and misery.  
 (Vig'rous no more, as when his young embrace  
 Begot this pest of me, and all my race).  
 How many valiant sons, in early bloom, 540  
 Has that curs'd hand sent headlong to the tomb?  
 Thee, Hector! last: thy loss (divinely brave)  
 Sinks my sad soul with sorrow to the grave.  
 Oh had thy gentle spirit pass'd in peace,  
 The son expiring in the fire's embrace, 545  
 While both the parents wept the fatal hour,  
 And, bending o'er thee, mix'd the tender show'r!

Some



Some comfort that had been, some sad relief,  
To melt in full satiety of grief!

Thus wail'd the father, grov'ling on the ground, 550  
And all the eyes of Ilion stream'd around.

Amidst her matrons Hecuba appears,  
(A mourning princess, and a train in tears):  
Ah! why has heav'n prolong'd this hated breath,  
Patient of horrors, to behold thy death! 555

Oh Hector! late thy parents pride and joy,  
The boast of nations! the defence of Troy!  
To whom her safety and her fame she ow'd;  
Her chief, her hero, and almost her God!  
O fatal change! become in one sad day 560  
A senseless corse! inanimated clay!

But not as yet the fatal news had spread  
To fair Andromache, of Hector dead;  
As yet no messenger had told his fate,  
Nor ev'n his stay without the Scæan gate. 565

Far in the close recesses of the dome,  
Pensive she ply'd the melancholy loom;  
A growing work employ'd her secret hours,  
Confus'dly gay, with intermingled flow'rs,  
Her fair-hair'd handmaids heat the brazen urn, 570

The bath preparing for her lord's return;  
In vain: alas! her lord returns no more!  
Unbath'd he lies, and bleeds along the shore!  
Now from the walls the clamours reach her ear,  
And all her members shake with sudden fear; 575  
Forth from her iv'ry hand the shuttle falls,  
As thus, astonish'd, to her maids she calls:

Ah follow me! (she cried); what plaintive noise  
Invades my ear? 'Tis sure my mother's voice.  
My salt'ring knees their trembling frame desert, 580  
A pulse unusual flutters at my heart;

Some strange disaster, some reverse of fate  
(Ye Gods avert it) threatens the Trojan state.  
Far be the omen which my thoughts suggest!  
But much I fear my dauntless Hector's breast 585  
Confronts Achilles; chac'd along the plain,  
Shut from our walls! I fear, I fear him slain!  
Safe in the croud he ever scorn'd to wait,  
And fought for glory in the jaws of fate:

Perhaps



Perhaps that noble heart has cost his breath,  
Now quench'd for ever in the arms of death. 590

She spoke; and furious, with distracted pace,  
Fears in her heart, and anguish in her face,  
Flies thro' the dome, (the maids her steps pursue),  
And mounts the walls, and sends around her view. 595

Too soon her eyes the killing object found,  
The godlike Hector dragg'd along the ground.  
A sudden darkness shades her swimming eyes:  
She faints, she falls; her breath, her colour flies.  
Her hair's fair ornaments, the braids that bound, 600  
The net that held them, and the wreath that crown'd,  
The veil and diadem, flew far away;

(The gift of Venus on her bridal day).  
Around a train of weeping sisters stands  
To raise her sinking with assistant hands. 605  
Scarce from the verge of death recall'd, again  
She faints, or but recovers to complain.

O wretched husband of a wretched wife!  
Born with one fate, to one unhappy life!  
For sure one star its baneful beam display'd 610  
On Priam's roof, and Hippoplacia's shade.

From diff'rent parents, diff'rent climes we came,  
At diff'rent periods, yet our fate the same:  
Why was my birth to great Aëtion ow'd?  
And why was all that tender care bestow'd? 615

Would I had never been! — O thou, the ghost  
Of my dead husband! miserably lost!  
Thou to the dismal realms for ever gone!  
And I abandon'd, desolate, alone!

An only child, once comfort of my pains, 620  
Sad product now of hapless love, remains!  
No more to smile upon his fire! no friend  
To help him now! no father to defend!

For should he 'scape the sword, the common doom!  
What wrongs attend him, and what griefs to come? 625  
Ev'n from his own paternal roof expell'd,  
Some stranger ploughs his patrimonial field.

The day, that to the shades the father sends,  
Robs the sad orphan of his father's friends:  
He, wretched outcast of mankind! appears 630  
For ever sad, for ever bath'd in tears;

Amongst



Amongst the happy, unregarded he,  
 Hangs on the robe, or trembles at the knee,  
 While those his father's former bounty fed,  
 Nor reach the goblet, nor divide the bread: 635  
 The kindest but his present wants allay,  
 To leave him wretched the succeeding day.  
 Frugal compassion! Heedless they who boast  
 Both parents still, nor feel what he has lost,  
 Shall cry, " Begone! thy father feasts not here." 640  
 The wretch obeys, retiring with a tear.  
 Thus wretched, thus retiring all in tears,  
 To my sad soul Aftyanax appears!  
 Forc'd by repeated insults to return,  
 And to his widow'd mother vainly mourn. 645  
 He, who with tender delicacy bred,  
 With princes sported, and on dainties fed,  
 And when still ev'ning gave him up to rest,  
 Sunk soft in down upon the nurse's breast,  
 Must—ah what must he not? Whom Ilion calls 650  
 Aftyanax, from her well-guarded walls,  
 Is now that name no more, unhappy boy!  
 Since now no more the father guards his Troy.  
 But thou, my Hector, ly'st expos'd in air,  
 Far from thy parents and thy consort's care, 655  
 Whose hand in vain, directed by her love,  
 The martial scarf and robe of triumph wove.  
 Now to devouring flames be these a prey,  
 Useless to thee, from this accursed day!  
 Yet let the sacrifice at least be paid, 660  
 An honour to the living, not the dead!

So spake the mournful dame: her matrons hear,  
 Sigh back her sighs, and answer tear with tear.



## T H E

## I L I A D.

## B O O K XXIII.

## T H E A R G U M E N T.

*Achilles and the Myrmidons do honours to the body of Patroclus. After the funeral feast, he retires to the sea-shore, where, falling asleep, the ghost of his friend appears to him, and demands the rites of burial. The next morning the soldiers are sent with mules and wag-gons to fetch wood for the pyre. The funeral procession, and the offering their hair to the dead. Achilles sacrifices several animals, and lastly, twelve Trojan captives at the pile, then sets fire to it. He pays libations to the winds, which, (at the instance of Iris) rise, and raise the flames. When the pile has burned all night, they gather the bones, place them in an urn of gold, and raise the tomb. Achilles institutes the funeral games: the chariot-race, the fight of the cæstus, the wrestling, the foot-race, the single combat, the discus, the shooting with arrows, the darting the javelin: the various descriptions of which, and the various success of the several antagonists, make the greatest part of the book.*

*In this book ends the thirtieth day. The night following the ghost of Patroclus appears to Achilles: the one and thirtieth day is employed in felling the timber for the pile; the two and thirtieth in burning it; and the three and thirtieth in the games. The scene is generally on the sea shore.*

**T**Hus humbled in the dust, the pensive train  
Thro' the sad city mourn'd her hero slain.

O O

The



The body soil'd with dust, and black with gore,  
 Lies on broad Hellespont's resounding shore :  
 The Grecians seek their ships, and clear the strand, 5  
 All, but the martial Myrmidonian band :  
 These yet assembled great Achilles holds,  
 And the stern purpose of his mind unfolds.

Not yet (my brave companions of the war)  
 Release your smoaking coursers from the car ; 10  
 But, with his chariot each in order led,  
 Perform due honours to Patroclus dead.  
 Ere yet from rest or food we seek relief,  
 Some rites remain, to glut our rage of grief.

The troops obey'd ; and thrice in order led 15  
 (Achilles first) their coursers round the dead ;  
 And thrice their sorrows and laments renew ;  
 Tears bathe their arms, and tears the sands bedew.  
 For such a warrior Thetis aids their woe,  
 Melts their strong hearts, and bids their eyes to flow. 20  
 But chief, Pelides : thick-succeeding sighs  
 Burst from his heart, and torrents from his eyes !  
 His slaught'ring hands, yet red with blood, he laid  
 On his dead friend's cold breast, and thus he said :

All hail, Patroclus ! let thy honour'd ghost 25  
 Hear, and rejoice on Pluto's dreary coast ;  
 Behold ! Achilles' promise is complete ;  
 The bloody Hector stretch'd before thy feet.  
 Lo ! to the dogs his carcase I resign ;  
 And twelve sad victims, of the Trojan line, 30  
 Sacred to vengeance, instant, shall expire,  
 Their lives effus'd around the fun'ral pyre.

Gloomy he said, and, (horrible to view)  
 Before the bier the bleeding Hector threw,  
 Prone on the dust. The Myrmidons around 35  
 Unbrac'd their armour, and the steeds unbound.  
 All to Achilles' sable ship repair,  
 Frequent and full, the genial feast to share.  
 Now from the well-fed swine black smokes aspire,  
 The bristly victims hissing o'er the fire : 40  
 The huge ox bellowing falls ; with feeble cries  
 Expires the goat ; the sheep in silence dies.  
 Around the hero's prostrate body flow'd,  
 In one promiscuous stream, the reeking blood.

And



And now a band of Argive monarchs brings 45  
The glorious victor to the king of kings.

From his dead friend the pensive warrior went,  
With steps unwilling, to the regal tent.

Th' attending heralds, as by office bound,  
With kindled flames the tripod-vase surround; 50

To cleanse his conqu'ring hands from hostile gore,  
They urg'd in vain; the chief refus'd, and swore:

No drop shall touch me, by almighty Jove!

The first and greatest of the Gods above!  
Till on the pyre I place thee; till I rear 55

The grassy mound, and clip thy sacred hair.  
Some ease at least those pious rites may give,  
And sooth my sorrows, while I bear to live.

Howe'er, reluctant as I am, I stay;  
And share your feast; but, with the dawn of day, 60

(O king of men!) it claims thy royal care,  
That Greece the warrior's fun'ral pile prepare,

And bid the forests fall: (such rites are paid  
To heroes slumb'ring in eternal shade).

Then, when his earthly part shall mount in fire, 65  
Let the leagu'd squadrons to their posts retire.

He spoke, they hear him, and the word obey;  
The rage of hunger and of thirst allay, 70

Then ease in sleep the labours of the day.  
But great Pelides, stretch'd along the shore,

Where dash'd on rocks the broken billows roar,  
Lies inly groaning; while on either hand

The martial Myrmidons confus'dly stand.  
Along the grass his languid members fall,

Tir'd with his chace around the Trojan wall; 75  
Hush'd by the murmurs of the rolling deep,

At length he sinks in the soft arms of sleep.  
When lo! the shade, before his closing eyes,

Of sad Patroclus rose, or seem'd to rise;  
In the same robe he living wore, he came; 80

In stature, voice, and pleasing look the same.  
The form familiar hover'd o'er his head:

And sleeps Achilles, (thus the phantom said),  
Sleeps my Achilles, his Patroclus dead? 85

Living I seem'd his dearest, tend'rest care,  
But now forgot, I wander in the air.



Let my pale corse the rites of burial know,  
 And give me entrance in the realms below:  
 Till then, the spirit finds no resting-place,  
 But here and there th' unbody'd spectres chace 90  
 The vagrant dead around the dark abode,  
 Forbid to cross th' irremeable flood.  
 Now give thy hand; for to the farther shore  
 When once we pass, the soul returns no more:  
 When once the last funereal flames ascend, 95  
 No more shall meet Achilles and his friend;  
 No more our thoughts to those we lov'd make known;  
 Or quit the dearest, to converse alone.  
 Me fate has sever'd from the sons of earth,  
 The fate foredoom'd that waited from my birth: 100  
 Thee too it waits; before the Trojan wall  
 Ev'n great and godlike thou art doom'd to fall.  
 Hear then; and as in fate and love we join,  
 Ah suffer that my bones may rest with thine!  
 Together have we liv'd, together bred, 105  
 One house receiv'd us, and one table fed:  
 That golden urn thy goddess-mother gave,  
 May mix our ashes in one common grave.  
 And is it thou? (he answers), to my sight  
 Once more return'st thou from the realms of night? 110  
 Oh more than brother! think each office paid,  
 Whate'er can rest a discontented shade:  
 But grant one last embrace, unhappy boy!  
 Afford at least that melancholy joy.  
 He said, and with his longing arms essay'd 115  
 In vain to grasp the visionary shade;  
 Like a thin smoke he sees the spirit fly,  
 And hears a feeble lamentable cry.  
 Confus'd he wakes; amazement breaks the bands  
 Of golden sleep, and starting from the sands, 120  
 Pensive he muses with uplifted hands. }  
 'Tis true, 'tis certain; man, though dead, retains  
 Part of himself; th' immortal mind remains:  
 The form subsists without the body's aid,  
 Aërial semblance, and an empty shade! 125  
 This night my friend, so late in battle lost,  
 Stood at my side, a pensive, plaintive ghost;  
 Ev'n now familiar, as in life, he came,  
 Alas! how diff'rent! yet how like the same!

Thus



Thus while he spoke, each eye grew big with tears :  
 And now the rosy finger'd morn appears, 131  
 Shews ev'ry mournful face with tears o'erspread,  
 And glares on the pale visage of the dead.  
 But Agamemnon, as the rites demand,  
 With mules and waggons sends a chosen band 135  
 To load the timber, and the pile to rear ;  
 A charge confign'd to Merion's faithful care.  
 With proper instruments they take the road,  
 Axes to cut, and ropes to fling the load.  
 First march the heavy mules, securely slow, 140  
 O'er hills, o'er dales, o'er crags, o'er rocks they go :  
 Jumping high o'er the shrubs of the rough ground,  
 Rattle the clatt'ring cars, and the shock'd axles bound.  
 But when arriv'd at Ida's spreading woods,  
 (Fair Ida, water'd with descending floods), 145  
 Loud sounds the axe redoubling strokes on strokes;  
 On all sides round the forest hurls her oaks  
 Headlong. Deep-echoing groan the thickets brown ;  
 Then rustling, crackling, crashing, thunder down.  
 The wood the Grecians cleave, prepar'd to burn ; 150  
 And the slow mules the same rough road return.  
 The sturdy woodmen equal burdens bore  
 (Such charge was giv'n them) to the sandy shore ;  
 There on the spot which great Achilles show'd,  
 They eas'd their shoulders, and dispos'd the load ; 155  
 Circling around the place, where times to come  
 Shall view Patroclus' and Achilles' tomb.  
 The hero bids his martial troops appear  
 High on their cars in all the pomp of war ;  
 Each in refulgent arms his limbs attires, 160  
 All mount their chariots, combatants, and squires.  
 The chariots first proceed, a sh'ning train ;  
 Then clouds of foot that smok<sup>e</sup> along the plain ;  
 Next these the melancholy band appear,  
 Amidst, lay dead Patroclus on the bier : 165  
 O'er all the corse their scatter'd locks they throw ;  
 Achilles next, oppress'd with mighty woe,  
 Supporting with his hands the hero's head,  
 Bends o'er th' extended body of the dead.  
 Patroclus decent on th' appointed ground 170  
 They place, and heap the sylvan pile around.



But great Achilles stands apart in pray'r,  
 And from his head divides the yellow hair;  
 Those curling locks which from his youth he vow'd,  
 And sacred grew, to Sperchius' honour'd flood: 175  
 Then sighing, to the deep his looks he cast,  
 And roll'd his eyes around the wat'ry waste.

Sperchius! whose waves in mazy errors lost  
 Delightful roll along my native coast!  
 To whom we vainly vow'd, at our return 180  
 These locks to fall, and hecatombs to burn;  
 Full fifty rams to bleed in sacrifice,  
 Where to the day thy silver fountains rise,  
 And where in shade of consecrated bow'rs  
 Thy altars stand, perfum'd with native flow'rs! 185  
 So vow'd my father, but he vow'd in vain;  
 No more Achilles sees his native plain;  
 In that vain hope these hairs no longer grow,  
 Patroclus bears them to the shades below.

Thus o'er Patroclus while the hero pray'd, 190  
 On his cold hand the sacred lock he laid.  
 Once more afresh the Grecian sorrows flow:  
 And now the sun had set upon their woe;  
 But to the king of men thus spoke the chief: 195  
 Enough, Atrides! give the troops relief:  
 Permit the mourning legions to retire,  
 And let the chiefs alone attend the pyre;  
 The pious care be ours, the dead to burn—  
 He said: the people to their ships return:  
 While those deputed to inter the slain, 200  
 Heap with a rising pyramid the plain.  
 A hundred foot in length, a hundred wide,  
 The growing structure spreads on ev'ry side;  
 High on the top the manly corse they lay,  
 And well fed sheep and sable oxen slay: 205  
 Achilles cover'd with their fat the dead,  
 And the pil'd victims round the body spread;  
 Then jars of honey and of fragrant oil  
 Suspends around, low-bending o'er the pile.  
 Four sprightly coursers, with a deadly groan 210  
 Pour forth their lives, and on the pyre are thrown.  
 Of nine large dogs, domestic at his board,  
 Fall two, selected to attend their lord.

Then



Then last of all, and horrible to tell,  
Sad sacrifice ! twelve Trojan captives fell. 215

On these the rage of fire victorious preys,  
Involves and joins them in one common blaze.  
Smear'd with the bloody rites, he stands on high,  
And calls the spirit with a dreadful cry :

All hail, Patroclus ! let thy vengeful ghost 220  
Hear, and exult on Pluto's dreary coast.

Behold, Achilles' promise fully paid,  
Twelve Trojan heroes offer'd to thy shade ;  
But heavier fates on Hector's corse attend,  
Sav'd from the flames for hungry dogs to rend. 225

So spake he, threat'ning ; but the gods made vain  
His threat, and guard inviolate the slain :  
Celestial Venus hover'd o'er his head,  
And roseat unguents (heav'nly fragrance !) shed :  
She watch'd him all the night, and all the day, 230  
And drove the blood-hounds from their destin'd prey.

Nor sacred Phœbus less employ'd his care ;  
He pour'd around a veil of gather'd air,  
And kept the nerves undry'd, the flesh entire,  
Against the solar beam and Syrian fire. 235

Nor yet the pile where dead Patroclus lies,  
Smokes, nor as yet the sullen flames arise ;  
But, fast beside, Achilles stood in pray'r,  
Invok'd the Gods whose spirit move the air,  
And victims promis'd, and libations cast, 240  
To gentle Zypher and the Boreal blast :  
He call'd th' aërial pow'rs along the skies  
To breathe, and whisper to the fires to rise.

The winged Iris heard the hero's call,  
And instant hasten'd to their airy hall, 245  
Where, in old Zypher's open courts on high,  
Sat all the blust'ring brethren of the sky.

She shone amidst them on her painted bow ;  
The rocky pavement glitter'd with the show.  
All from the banquet rise, and each invites 250  
The various Goddesses to partake the rites.

Not so, (the dame reply'd), I haste to go  
To sacred ocean, and the floods below :  
Ev'n now our solemn hecatombs attend,  
And heav'n is feasting on the world's green end, 255  
With



With righteous Æthiops (uncorrupted train!)  
 Far on th' extremeſt limits of the main.  
 But Peleus' ſon intreats, with ſacrifice,  
 The Weſtern Spirit, and the North to riſe;  
 Let on Patroclus' pile your blaſt be driv'n, 260  
 And bear the blazing honours high to heav'n.

Swift as the word ſhe vaniſh'd from their view;  
 Swift as the word the winds tumultuous flew;  
 Forth burſt the ſtormy band with thund'ring roar,  
 And heaps on heaps the clouds are toſs'd before. 265

To the wide main then ſtooping from the ſkies,  
 The heaving deeps in wat'ry mountains riſe:  
 Troy feels the blaſt along her ſhaking walls,  
 Till on the pile the gather'd tempeſt falls.

The ſtructure crackles in the roaring fires, 270  
 And all the night the plenteous flame aſpires.

All night Achilles hails Patroclus' ſoul,  
 With large libations from the golden bowl.  
 As a poor father, helpleſs and undone,  
 Mourns o'er the aſhes of an only ſon, 275

Takes a ſad pleaſure the laſt bones to burn,  
 And pour in tears, ere yet they cloſe the urn:  
 So ſtaid Achilles, circling round the ſhore,  
 So watch'd the flames, till now they flame no more.

'Twas when, emerging thro' the ſhades of night, 280  
 The morning-plannet told th' approach of light;  
 And faſt behind, Aurora's warmer ray

O'er the broad ocean pour'd the golden day:  
 Then ſunk the blaze, the pile no longer burn'd,  
 And to their caves the whiſtling winds return'd: 285  
 Acroſs the Thracian ſeas their courſe they bore;  
 The ruffled ſeas beneath their paſſage roar.

Then parting from the pile, he ceas'd to weep,  
 And ſunk to quiet in th' embrace of ſleep,  
 Exhausted with his grief: mean while the croud 290  
 Of thronging Grecians round Achilles ſtood:  
 The tumult wak'd him: from his eyes he ſhook  
 Unwilling ſlumber, and the chiefs beſpoke.

Ye kings and princes of th' Achaian name!  
 Firſt let us quench the yet remaining flame 295  
 With ſable wine; then (as the rites direct)  
 The hero's bones with careful view ſelect:

(Apart



(Apart, and easy to be known they lie,  
 Amidst the heap, and obvious to the eye :  
 The rest around the margins will be seen, 300  
 Promiscuous steeds, and immolated men);  
 These wrapt in double cawls of fat, prepare ;  
 And in the golden vase dispose with care ;  
 There let them rest, with decent honour laid,  
 Till I shall follow to th' infernal shade. 305  
 Mean-time erect the tomb with pious hands,  
 A common structure on the humble sands ;  
 Hereafter Greece some nobler work may raise,  
 And late posterity record our praise.

The Greeks obey; where yet the embers glow, 310  
 Wide o'er the pile the sable wine they throw,  
 And deep subsides the ashy heap below. }  
 Next the white bones his sad companions place,  
 With tears collected, in the golden vase.  
 The sacred relics to the tent they bore; 315  
 The urn a veil of linen cover'd o'er.  
 That done, they bid the sepulchre aspire,  
 And cast the deep foundations round the pyre ;  
 High in the midst they heap the swelling bed  
 Of rising earth, memorial of the dead. 320

The swarming populace the chief detains,  
 And leads amidst a wide extent of plains ;  
 There plac'd them round : then from the ships proceeds  
 A train of oxen, mules, and stately steeds,  
 Vases and tripods, (for the fun'ral games), 325  
 Resplendent brass, and more resplendent dames.  
 First stood the prizes to reward the force  
 Of rapid racers in the dusty course :  
 A woman for the first, in beauty's bloom,  
 Skill'd in the needle and the lab'ring loom ; 330  
 And a large vase, where two bright handles rise,  
 Of twenty measures its capacious size.  
 The second victor claims a mare unbroke,  
 Big with a mule, unknowing of the yoke :  
 The third, a charger yet untouch'd by flame ; 335  
 Four ample measures held the shining frame :  
 Two golden talents for the fourth were plac'd ;  
 An ample double bowl contents the last.

These



These in fair order rang'd upon the plain,  
The hero, rising, thus address'd the train: 340

Behold the prizes, valiant Greeks! decreed  
To the brave rulers of the racing steed;  
Prizes which none beside ourself could gain,  
Should our immortal courfers take the plain:  
(A race unrivall'd, which from Ocean's God 345  
Peleus receiv'd, and on his son bestow'd).

But this no time our vigour to display;  
Nor suit with them, the games of this sad day:  
Lost is Patroclus now, that wont to deck  
Their flowing manes, and sleek their glossy neck. 350

Sad, as they shar'd in human grief they stand,  
And trail those graceful honours on the sand!  
Let others for the noble task prepare,  
Who trust the courser, and the flying car.

Fir'd at the word, the rival racers rise; 355  
But far the first, Eumelus hopes the prize,  
Fam'd through Pieria for the fleetest breed,  
And skill'd to manage the high-bounding steed.

With equal ardour bold Tydides swell'd,  
The steeds of Tros beneath his yoke compell'd, 360  
(Which late obey'd the Dardan chief's command,  
When scarce a God redeem'd him from his hand).

Then Menelaus his Podargus brings,  
And the fam'd courser of the king of kings;  
Whom rich Echepolus, (more rich than brave), 365  
To 'scape the wars, to Agamemnon gave,  
(Æthè her name), at home to end his days;  
Base wealth preferring to eternal praise.

Next him Antilochus demands the course,  
With beating heart, and cheers his Pylian horse. 370  
Experienc'd Nestor gives his son the reins,  
Directs his judgment, and his heat restrains;  
Nor idly warns the hoary fire, nor hears  
The prudent son with unattending ears.

My son! tho' youthful ardour fire thy breast, 375  
The Gods have lov'd thee, and with arts have blest.  
Neptune and Jove on thee conferr'd the skill,  
Swift round the goal to turn the flying wheel.  
To guide thy conduct little precept needs;  
But slow, and past their vigour, are my steeds, 380

Fear



Fear not thy rivals, tho' for swiftness known ;  
Compare those rivals judgment, and thy own :  
It is not strength, but art, obtains the prize,  
And to be swift is less than to be wise.  
'Tis more by art, than force of num'rous strokes, 385  
The dext'rous woodman shapes the stubborn oaks ;  
By art the pilot, through the boiling deep  
And howling tempest, steers the fearless ship ;  
And 'tis the artist wins the glorious course,  
Not those who trust in chariots, and in horse. 390  
In vain ; unskilful, to the goal they strive,  
And short, or wide, th' ungovern'd courser drive :  
While with sure skill, tho' with inferior steeds,  
The knowing racer to his end proceeds ;  
Fix'd on the goal, his eye fore-runs the course, 395  
His hand unerring steers the steady horse,  
And now contracts, or now extends the rein,  
Observing still the foremost on the plain.  
Mark then the goal, 'tis easy to be found ;  
Yon aged trunk, a cubit from the ground ; 400  
Of some once stately oak the last remains,  
Of hardy fir, unperish'd with the rains :  
Inclos'd with stones, conspicuous from afar ;  
And round, a circle for the wheeling car.  
(Some tomb perhaps of old, the dead to grace ; 405  
Or then, as now, the limit of a race).  
Bear close to this, and warily proceed,  
A little bending to the left-hand steed ;  
But urge the right, and give him all the reins ;  
While thy strict hand his fellow's head restrains, 410  
And turns him short ; till, doubling as they roll,  
The wheel's round naves appear to brush the goal.  
Yet (not to break the car, or lame the horse)  
Clear of the stony heap direct the course ;  
Left, through incaution failing, thou mayst be 415  
A joy to others, a reproach to me.  
So shalt thou pass the goal secure of mind,  
And leave unskilful swiftness far behind ;  
Tho' thy fierce rival drove the matchless steed  
Which bore Adrastus, of celestial breed ; 420  
Or the fam'd race, through all the regions known,  
That whirl'd the car of proud Laomedon.

Thus,



Thus, (nought unsaid), the much-advising sage  
 Concludes; then sat, stiff with unwieldy age.  
 Next bold Meriones was seen to rise, 425  
 The last, but not least ardent for the prize.  
 They mount their seats; the lots their place dispose;  
 (Roll'd in his helmet, these Achilles throws.)  
 Young Nestor leads the race, Eumelus then;  
 And next the brother of the king of men; 430  
 Thy lot, Meriones, the fourth was cast;  
 And far the bravest, Diomed was last.  
 They stand in order, an impatient train;  
 Pelides points the barrier on the plain,  
 And sends before old Phœnix to the place, 435  
 To mark the racers, and to judge the race.  
 At once the courfers from the barrier bound;  
 The lifted scourges all at once resound;  
 Their heart, their eyes, their voice, they send before;  
 And up the champaign thunder from the shore: 440  
 Thick, where they drive, the dusty clouds arise,  
 And the lost courser in the whirlwind flies;  
 Loose on their shoulders the long manes, reclin'd,  
 Float in their speed, and dance upon the wind;  
 The smoking chariots, rapid as they bound, 445  
 Now seem to touch the sky, and now the ground.  
 While hot for fame, and conquest all their care,  
 (Each o'er his flying courser hung in air),  
 Erect with ardour, pois'd upon the rein, 450  
 They pant, they stretch, they shout along the plain,  
 Now, (the last compass fetch'd around the goal),  
 At the near prize each gathers all his soul,  
 Each burns with double hope, with double pain,  
 Tears up the shore, and thunders tow'rd the main.  
 First flew Eumelus on Pheretian steeds; 455  
 With those of Tros, bold Diomed succeeds:  
 Close on Eumelus' back they puff the wind,  
 And seem just mounting on his car behind;  
 Full on his neck he feels the sultry breeze,  
 And hov'ring o'er their stretching shadow sees. 460  
 Then had he lost, or left a doubtful prize;  
 But angry Phœbus to Tydides flies,  
 Strikes from his hand the scourge, and renders vain  
 His matchless horses labour on the plain.



Rage fills his eye with anguish, to survey 465

Snatch'd from his hope the glories of the day.

The fraud celestial Pallas fees with pain,

Springs to her knight, and gives the scourge again,

And fills his steeds with vigour. At a stroke

She breaks his rival's chariot from the yoke; 470

No more their way their startled horses held;

The car revers'd came rattling on the field;

Shot headlong from his seat, beside the wheel,

Prone on the dust th' unhappy master fell;

His batter'd face and elbows strike the ground; 475

Nose, mouth, and front, one undistinguish'd wound:

Grief stops his voice, a torrent drowns his eyes;

Before him far the glad Tydides flies;

Minerva's spirit drives his matchless pace,

And crowns him victor of the labour'd race. 480

The next, though distant, Menelaüs succeeds;

While thus young Nestor animates his steeds:

Now, now, my gen'rous pair, exert your force;

Not that we hope to match Tydides' horse,

Since great Minerva wings their rapid way, 485

And gives their Lord the honours of the day.

But reach Atrides! shall his mare outgo

Your swiftness? vanquish'd by a female foe!

Through your neglect, if lagging on the plain

The last ignoble gift be all we gain; 490

No more shall Nestor's hand your food supply,

The old man's fury rises, and ye die.

Haste then; yon narrow road, before our sight,

Presents th' occasion, could we use it right.

Thus he. The courfers, at their master's threat, 495

With quicker steps the sounding champaign beat.

And now Antilochus, with nice survey,

Observes the compass of the hollow way.

'Twas where by force of wintry torrents torn,

Fast by the road a precipice was worn: 500

Here, where but one could pass, to shun the throng

The Spartan hero's chariot smok'd along.

Close up the vent'rous youth resolves to keep,

Still edging near, and bears him tow'rd the steep.

Atrides trembling casts his eye below, 505

And wonders at the rashness of his foe.



Hold, stay your steeds—What madness thus to ride  
 This narrow way; take larger field (he cry'd),  
 Or both must fall—Atrides cry'd in vain;  
 He flies more fast, and throws up all the rein. 510

Far as an able arm the disk can send,  
 When youthful rivals their full force extend,  
 So far, Antilochus! thy chariot flew  
 Before the king: he, cautious, backward drew  
 His horse compell'd; foreboding in his fears 415

The rattling ruin of the clashing cars,  
 The flound'ring courfers rolling on the plain,  
 And conquest lost through frantic haste to gain:  
 But thus upbraids his rival as he flies:  
 Go, furious youth, ungen'rous and unwise! 520

Go, but expect not I'll the prize resign;  
 Add perjury to fraud, and make it thine——  
 Then to his steeds with all his force he cries:  
 Be swift, be vig'rous, and regain the prize!

Your rivals, destitute of youthful force, 525  
 With fainting knees shall labour in the course,  
 And yield the glory your's——The steeds obey;  
 Already at their heels they wing their way,  
 And seem already to retrieve the day. }

Mean-time the Grecians in a ring beheld 530  
 The courfers bounding o'er the dusty field.  
 The first who mark'd them was the Cretan king;  
 High on a rising ground above the ring,  
 The monarch sat; from whence with sure survey  
 He well observ'd the chief who led the way, 535  
 And heard from far his animating cries,

And saw the foremost steed with sharpen'd eyes;  
 On whose broad front a blaze of shining white,  
 Like the full moon, stood obvious to the sight.  
 He saw; and rising, to the Greeks begun: 540  
 Are yonder horse discern'd by me alone?

Or can ye, all, another chief survey,  
 And other steeds, than lately led the way?  
 Those, though the swiftest, by some God with-held,  
 Lie sure disabled in the middle field: 545

For since the goal they doubled, round the plain  
 I search to find them, but I search in vain.

Perchance



Perchance the reins forsook the driver's hand,  
 And, turn'd too short, he tumbled on the strand,  
 Shot from the chariot; while his coursers stray 550  
 With frantic fury from the destin'd way.

Rise then some other, and inform my sight,  
 (For these dim eyes, perhaps, discern not right);  
 Yet sure he seems (to judge by shape and air)  
 The great Ætolian chief, renown'd in war. 555

Old man! (Oileus rashly thus replies),  
 Thy tongue too hastily confers the prize;  
 Of those who view the course, nor sharpest ey'd,  
 Nor youngest, yet the readiest to decide.  
 Eumelus' steeds high bounding in the chace, 560  
 Still, as at first, unrivall'd lead the race:  
 I well discern him as he shakes the rein,  
 And hear his shouts victorious o'er the plain.

Thus he. Idomeneus incens'd, rejoin'd,  
 Barb'rous of words! and arrogant of mind! 565  
 Contentious prince! of all the Greeks beside  
 The last in merit, as the first in pride:  
 To vile reproach what answer can we make?  
 A goblet or a tripod let us stake,  
 And be the king the judge. The most unwise 570  
 Will learn their rashness, when they pay the price.

He said; And Ajax by mad passion borne,  
 Stern had reply'd; fierce scorn enhancing scorn  
 To fell extremes. But Thetis' godlike son  
 Awful amidst them rose, and thus begun: 575

Forbear, ye chiefs! reproachful to contend;  
 Much would you blame, should others thus offend;  
 And lo! th' approaching steeds your contest end. }  
 No sooner had he spoke, but thund'ring near,  
 Drives, through a stream of dust, the charioteer. 580  
 High o'er his head the circling lash he wields;  
 His bounding horses scarcely touch the fields:  
 His car amidst the dusty whirlwind roll'd,  
 Bright with the mingled blaze of tin and gold,  
 Refulgent through the cloud: no eye could find 585  
 The track his flying wheels had left behind:  
 And the fierce coursers urg'd their rapid pace  
 So swift, it seem'd a flight, and not a race.



Now victor at the goal Tydides stands,  
 Quits his bright car, and springs upon the sands : 590  
 From the hot steeds the sweaty torrents stream ;  
 The well-ply'd whip is hung athwart the beam :  
 With joy brave Sthenelus receives the prize,  
 The tripod-vase, and dame with radiant eyes :  
 These to the ships his train triumphant leads, 595  
 The chief himself unyokes the panting steeds.

Young Nestor follows (who by art, not force,  
 O'erpass'd Atrides) second in the course.  
 Behind, Atrides urge'd the race, more near  
 Than to the courser in his swift career 600  
 The following car, just touching with his heel,  
 And brushing with his tail the whirling wheel.  
 Such and so narrow now the space between  
 The rivals, late so distant on the green ;  
 So soon swift Æthe her lost ground regain'd, 605  
 One length, one moment, had the race obtain'd.

Merion pursu'd, at greater distance still  
 With tardier courfers, and inferior skill.  
 Last came, Admetus ! thy unhappy son ;  
 Slow dragg'd the steeds his batter'd chariot on : 610  
 Achilles saw, and pitying, thus begun :

Behold the man whose matchless art surpass  
 The sons of Greece ! the ablest, yet the last ?  
 Fortune denies, but justice bids us pay  
 (Since Great Tydides bears the first away) 615  
 To him the second honours of the day.

The Greeks consent with loud-applauding cries,  
 And then Eumelus had receiv'd the prize ;  
 But youthful Nestor, jealous of his fame,  
 Th' award opposes, and asserts his claim. 620  
 Think not (he cries) I tamely will resign,  
 O Peleus' son ! the mare so justly mine.  
 What if the Gods, the skilful to confound,  
 Have thrown the horse and horseman to the ground ?  
 Perhaps he fought not heav'n by sacrifice, 625  
 And vows omitted forfeited the prize.  
 If yet (distinction to thy friend to show,  
 And please a soul desirous to bestow)  
 Some gift must grace Eumelus : view thy store  
 Of beauteous handmaids, steeds, and shining ore, 630  
 An



An ample present let him thence receive,  
 And Greece shall praise thy gen'rous thirst to give.  
 But this my prize I never shall forego!  
 This who but touches, warriors! is my foe.

Thus spake the youth: nor did his words offend: 635  
 Pleas'd with the well-turn'd flatt'ry of a friend,  
 Achilles smil'd: The gift propos'd, (he cry'd),  
 Antilochus! we shall ourself provide.  
 With plates of brass the corslet cover'd o'er,  
 (The same renown'd Afteropæus wore), 640  
 Whose glitt'ring margins rais'd with silver shine,  
 (No vulgar gift), Eumelus, shall be thine.

He said: Automedon at his command  
 The corslet brought, and gave it to his hand.  
 Distinguish'd by his friend, his bosom glows 645  
 With gen'rous joy: then Menelaüs rose;  
 The herald plac'd the sceptre in his hands,  
 And still'd the clamour of the shouting bands.  
 Not without cause incens'd at Nestor's son,  
 And, inly grieving, thus the king begun: 650

The praise of wisdom, in thy youth obtain'd,  
 An act so rash (Antilochus) has stain'd.  
 Robb'd of my glory and my just reward,  
 To you, O Grecians! be my wrong declar'd:  
 So not a leader shall our conduct blame, 655  
 Or judge me envious of a rival's fame.  
 But shall not we, ourselves, the truth maintain?  
 What needs appealing in a fact so plain?  
 What Greek shall blame me, if I bid thee rise,  
 And vindicate by oath th' ill-gotten prize? 660  
 Rise if thou dar'st, before thy chariot stand,  
 The driving scourge high-lifted in thy hand;  
 And touch thy steeds, and swear, thy whole intent  
 Was but to conquer, not to circumvent:  
 Swear by that God whose liquid arms surround 665  
 The globe, and whose dread earthquakes heave the ground.

The prudent chief with calm attention heard;  
 Then mildly thus: Excuse, if youth have err'd;  
 Superior as thou art, forgive th' offence,  
 Nor I thy equal; or in years, or sense. 670



Thou know'st the errors of unripen'd age,  
 Weak are its counsels, headlong is its rage.  
 The prize I quit, if thou thy wrath resign;  
 The mare, or aught thou ask'st, be freely thine,  
 Ere I become (from thy dear friendship torn)  
 Hateful to thee, and to the Gods forsworn. 675

So spoke Antilochus; and at the word  
 The mare contested to the king restor'd.  
 Joy swells his soul: as when the vernal grain  
 Lifts the green ear above the springing plain, 680  
 The fields their vegetable life renew,  
 And laugh and glitter with the morning dew;  
 Such joy the Spartan's shining face o'erspread,  
 And lifted his gay heart, while thus he said:

Still may our souls, O gen'rous youth! agree; 685  
 'Tis now Atrides' turn to yield to thee.  
 Rash heat perhaps a moment might controul,  
 Not break, the settled temper of thy soul.  
 Not but (my friend) 'tis still the wiser way  
 To wave contention with superior sway; 690  
 For ah! how few, who should like thee offend,  
 Like thee, have talents to regain the friend?  
 To plead indulgence, and thy fault atone,  
 Suffice thy father's merit and thy own:  
 Gen'rous alike, for me, the sire and son 695  
 Have greatly suffer'd, and have greatly done.  
 I yield; that all may know my soul can bend,  
 Nor is my pride preferr'd before my friend.

He said; and pleas'd, his passion to command,  
 Resign'd the courser to Noëmon's hand, 700  
 Friend of the youthful chief: himself content,  
 The shining charger to his vessel sent.  
 The golden talents Merion next obtain'd.  
 The fifth reward, the double bowl, remain'd:  
 Achilles this to rev'rend Nestor bears, 705  
 And thus the purpose of his gift declares:

Accept thou this, O sacred fire! (he said),  
 In dear memorial of Patroclus dead;  
 Dead, and for ever lost, Patroclus lies,  
 For ever snatch'd from our desiring eyes! 710  
 Take thou this token of a grateful heart,  
 Tho' 'tis not thine to hurl the distant dart,

The



The quoit to toss, the pond'rous mace to wield,  
Or urge the race, or wrestle on the field.

Thy present vigour age has overthrown, 715  
But left the glory of the past thy own.

He said; and plac'd the goblet at his side;  
With joy the venerable king reply'd:

Wisely and well, my son, thy words have prov'd,  
A senior honour'd, and a friend belov'd! 720

Too true it is, deserted of my strength,  
These wither'd arms and limbs have fail'd at length!

Oh! had I now that force I felt of yore,  
Known thro' Buprasium and the Pylian shore!

Victorious then in ev'ry solemn game, 725  
Ordain'd to Amarynce's mighty name;

The brave Epeians gave my glory way,  
Ætolians, Pylians, all resign'd the day.

I quell'd Clytomedes in fights of hand,  
And backward hurl'd Ancæus on the sand, 730

Surpass'd Iphyclus in the swift career,  
Phyleus and Polydorus, with the spear.

The sons of Actor won the prize of horse,  
But won by numbers, not by art or force:

For the fam'd twins, impatient to survey 735  
Prize after prize by Nestor borne away,

Sprung to their car; and with united pains  
One lash'd the coursers, while one rul'd the reins.

Such once I was! Now to these tasks succeeds 740  
A younger race, that emulate our deeds:

I yield, alas! (to age who must not yield?)

Tho' once the foremost hero of the field.

Go thou, my son! by gen'rous friendship led,

With martial honours decorate the dead;

While pleas'd I take the gift thy hands present, 745  
(Pledge of benevolence, and kind intent),

Rejoic'd, of all the num'rous Greeks, to see

Not one but honours sacred age and me:

Those due distinctions thou so well canst pay,

May the just Gods return another day. 750

Proud of the gift, thus spake the full of days:

Achilles heard him, prouder of the praise.

The prizes next are order'd to the field,

For the bold champions who the cæstus wield.



A stately mule, as yet by toils unbroke,  
Of six years age, unconscious of the yoke,  
Is to the circus led, and firmly bound ;  
Next stands a goblet, massy, large, and round.

Achilles rising, thus : Let Greece excite  
Two heroes equal to this hardy fight ;  
Who dares his foe with lifted arms provoke,  
And rush beneath the long descending stroke ?  
On whom Apollo shall the palm bestow,  
And whom the Greeks supreme by conquest know,  
This mule his dauntless labour shall repay ;  
The vanquish'd bear the massy bowl away.

This dreadful combat great Epëus chose ;  
High o'er the croud, enormous bulk ! he rose,  
And seiz'd the beast, and thus began to say :  
Stand forth some man, to bear the bowl away !  
(Price of his ruin :) for who dares deny  
This mule my right ? th' undoubted victor I.  
Others, 'tis own'd, in fields of battle shine,  
But the first honours of this fight are mine ;  
For who excels in all ? Then let my foe  
Draw near, but first his certain fortune know,  
Secure, this hand shall his whole frame confound,  
Mash all his bones, and all his body pound :  
So let his friends be nigh, a needful train,  
To heave the batter'd carcase off the plain.

The giant spoke ; and in a stupid gaze  
The host beheld him, silent with amaze !  
'Twas thou, Euryalus ! who durst aspire  
To meet his might, and emulate thy fire,  
The great Mecistheus ; who, in days of yore,  
In Theban games the noblest trophy bore,  
(The games ordain'd dead Oedipus to grace),  
And singly vanquish'd the Cadmæan race.  
Him great Tydides urges to contend,  
Warm with the hopes of conquest for his friend ;  
Officious with the cincture girds him round ;  
And to his wrist the gloves of death are bound.  
Amid the circle now each champion stands,  
And poises high in air his iron hands ;

With



With clashing gauntlets now they fiercely close, 795 }  
 Their crackling jaws re-echo to the blows, }  
 And painful sweat from all their members flows. }

At length Epëus dealt a weighty blow,  
 Full on the cheek of his unwary foe ;  
 Beneath that pond'rous arm's resistless sway. 800

Down dropt he nerveless, and extended lay.  
 As a large fish, when winds and waters roar,  
 By some huge billow dash'd against the shore,  
 Lies panting : not less batter'd with his wound,  
 The bleeding hero pants upon the ground. 805

To rear his fallen foe, the victor lends,  
 Scornful, his hand ; and gives him to his friends ;  
 Whose arms support him, reeling thro' the throng,  
 And dragging his disabled legs along ;

Nodding, his head hangs down his shoulder o'er ; 810  
 His mouth and nostrils pour the clotted gore ;  
 Wrapt round in mists he lies, and lost to thought ;  
 His friends receive the bowl, too dearly bought.

The third bold game Achilles next demands,  
 And calls the wrestlers to the level sands : 815

A massy tripod for the victor lies,  
 Of twice six oxen its reputed price ;  
 And next, the loser's spirits to restore,  
 A female captive, valu'd but at four.

Scarce did the chief the vig'rous strife propose, 820  
 When tow'r-like Ajax and Ulysses rose.

Amid the ring each nervous rival stands,  
 Embracing rigid with implicit hands ;  
 Close lock'd above, their heads and arms are mix'd ;  
 Below, their planted feet, at distance fix'd : 825

Like two strong rafters, which the builder forms,  
 Proof to the wintry wind and howling storms,  
 Their tops connected, but at wider space,  
 Fix'd on the centre stands their solid base.

Now to the grasp each manly body bends ; 830  
 The humid sweat from ev'ry pore descends ;

Their bones resound with blows : sides, shoulders, thighs,  
 Swell to each gripe, and bloody tumours rise.

Nor could Ulysses, for his art renown'd,  
 O'erturn the strength of Ajax on the ground ; 835

Nor



Nor could the strength of Ajax overthrow  
 The watchful caution of his artful foe.  
 While the long strife ev'n tir'd the lookers-on,  
 Thus to Ulysses spoke great Telamon:  
 Or let me lift thee, chief, or lift thou me: 840  
 Prove we our force, and Jove the rest decree.

He said; and straining, heav'd him off the ground  
 With matchless strength; that time Ulysses found  
 The strength t'evade, and where the nerves combine  
 His ancle struck: the giant fell supine; 845  
 Ulysses following, on his bosom lies:

Shouts of applause run rattling through the skies.  
 Ajax to lift, Ulysses next essays,  
 He barely stirr'd him, but he could not raise:  
 His knee lock'd fast, the foe's attempt deny'd; 850  
 And grappling close, they tumbled side by side.  
 Defil'd with honourable dust, they roll,  
 Still breathing strife, and unsubdu'd of soul:  
 Again they rage, again to combat rise;  
 When Great Achilles thus divides the prize: 855

Your nobler vigour, oh my friends! restrain;  
 Nor weary out your gen'rous strength in vain.  
 Ye both have won: let others who excel,  
 Now prove that prowess you have prov'd so well.

The hero's words the willing chiefs obey, 860  
 From their tir'd bodies wipe the dust away,  
 And, cloth'd anew, the following games survey.  
 And now succeed the gifts ordain'd to grace  
 The youths contending in the rapid race:

A silver urn that full six measures held, 865  
 By none in weight or workmanship excell'd:  
 Sidonian artists taught the frame to shine,  
 Elaborate, with artifice divine;

Whence Tyrian sailors did the prize transport,  
 And gave to Thoas at the Lemnian port: 870

From him descended, good Eunæus heir'd  
 The glorious gift, and, for Lycaon spar'd,  
 To brave Patroclus gave the rich reward.

Now, the same hero's fun'ral rites to grace,  
 It stands the prize of swiftness in the race. 875

A well-fed ox was for the second plac'd;  
 And half a talent must content the last.

Achilles



Achilles rising then bespoke the train :  
 Who hope the palm of swiftness to obtain,  
 Stand forth, and bear these prizes from the plain. 880

The hero said : and starting from his place,  
 Oilean Ajax rises to the race ;  
 Ulysses next ; and he whose speed surpass  
 His youthful equals, Nestor's son the last.  
 Rang'd in a line the ready racers stand ; 885  
 Pelides points the barrier with his hand ;  
 All start at once ; Oileus led the race ;

The next Ulysses, meas'ring pace with pace ;  
 Behind him, diligently close, he sped ;  
 As closely following as the running thread 890

The spindle follows, and displays the charms  
 Of the fair spinster's breast, and moving arms ;  
 Graceful in motion thus, his foe he plies,  
 And treads each footstep ere the dust can rise ;  
 His glowing breath upon his shoulders plays : 895  
 Th' admiring Greeks loud acclamations raise,  
 To him they give their wishes, hearts, and eyes,  
 And send their souls before him as he flies.

Now three times turn'd, in prospect of the goal,  
 The panting chief to Pallas lifts his soul : 900  
 Assist, O Goddess ! (thus in thought he pray'd),  
 And present at his thought descends the maid.

Buoy'd by her heav'nly force, he seems to swim,  
 And feels a pinion lifting ev'ry limb,  
 All fierce, and ready now the prize to gain, 905

Unhappy Ajax tumbles on the plain ;  
 (O'erturn'd by Pallas), where the slipp'ry shore  
 Was clogg'd with slimy dung and mingled gore.

(The self-same place beside Patroclus' pyre,  
 Where late the slaughter'd victims fed the fire) ; 910  
 Besmear'd with filth, and blotted o'er with clay,

Obscene to sight, the rueful racer lay ;  
 The well-fed bull (the second prize) he shar'd,  
 And left the urn Ulysses' rich reward.

Then grasping by the horn the mighty beast, 915  
 The baffled hero thus the Greeks address :

Accursed fate ! the conquest I forego ;  
 A mortal I, a Goddess was my foe ;

She



She urg'd her fav'rite on the rapid way,  
And Pallas, not Ulysses, won the day. 920

Thus sourly wail'd he, sputt'ring dirt and gore,  
A burst of laughter echo'd thro' the shore.  
Antilochus, more hum'rous than the rest,  
Takes the last prize, and takes it with a jest.

Why with our wiser elders should we strive? 925  
The Gods will love them, and they always thrive.  
Ye see, to Ajax I must yield the prize:  
He to Ulysses, still more ag'd and wise;  
(A green old age, unconscious of decays,  
That proves the hero born in better days!) 930  
Behold his vigour in this active race!  
Achilles only boasts a swifter pace:  
For who can match Achilles? He who can,  
Must yet be more than hero, more than man.

Th' effect succeeds the speech. Pelides cries, 935  
Thy artful praise deserves a better prize:  
Nor Greece in vain shall hear thy friend extoll'd;  
Receive a talent of the purest gold.  
The youth departs content. The host admire  
The son of Nestor, worthy of his fire. 940

Next these a buckler, spear, and helm he brings;  
Cast on the plain, the brazen burthen rings;  
Arms which of late divine Sarpedon wore,  
And great Patroclus in short triumph bore.  
Stand forth the bravest of our host! (he cries); 945  
Whoever dares deserve so rich a prize,  
Now grace the lists before our army's fight,  
And sheath'd in steel, provoke his foe to fight,  
Who first the jointed armour shall explore,  
And stain his rival's mail with issuing gore; 950  
The sword Asteropus possess'd of old,  
(A Thracian blade, distinct with studs of gold),  
Shall pay the stroke, and grace the striker's side:  
These arms in common let the chiefs divide:  
For each brave champion, when the combat ends, 955  
A sumptuous banquet at our tent attends.

Fierce at the word, uprose great Tydeus' son,  
And the huge bulk of Ajax Telamon.  
Clad in refulgent steel, on either hand,  
The dreadful chiefs amid the circle stand! 960



Louing they meet, tremendous to the fight ;  
 Each Argive bosom beats with fierce delight.  
 Oppos'd in arms not long they idly stood,  
 But thrice they clos'd, and thrice the charge renew'd.

A furious pass the spear of Ajax made 965

Thro' the broad shield, but at the corslet stay'd :

Not thus the foe ; his jav'lin, aim'd above

The buckler's margin, at the neck he drove.

But Greece now trembling for her hero's life,

Bade share the honours, and surcease the strife. 970

Yet still the victor's due Tydides gains,

With him the sword and studded belt remains.

Then hurl'd the hero thund'ring on the ground

A mass of iron (an enormous round),

Whose weight and size the circling Greeks admire, 975

Rude from the furnace, and but shap'd by fire.

This mighty quoit Aëtion wont to rear,

And from his whirling arm dismiss in air :

The giant by Achilles slain, he stow'd

Among his spoils this memorable load. 980

For this he bids those nervous artists vie,

That teach the disk to sound along the sky.

Let him whose might can hurl this bowl, arise ;

Who farthest hurls it take it as his prize :

If he be one enrich'd with large domain 985

Of downs for flocks, and arable for grain,

Small stock of iron needs that man provide ;

His hinds and swains whole years shall be supply'd

From hence ; nor ask the neighb'ring city's aid,

For ploughshares, wheels, and all the rural trade. 990

Stern Polypœtes stept before the throng ;

And great Leonteus, more than mortal strong ;

Whose force with rival forces to oppose,

Uprose great Ajax ; up Epëus rose.

Each stood in order : first Epëus threw : 995

High o'er the wond'ring crouds the whirling circle flew.

Leontus next a little space surpast ;

And third, the strength of godlike Ajax cast.

O'er both their marks it flew ; till fiercely flung

From Polypœtes arm, the discus sung : 1000

Far, as a swain his whirling sheephook throws,

That distant falls among the grazing cows,



So past them all the rapid circle flies:  
 His friends (while loud applauses shake the skies)  
 With force conjoin'd heave off the weighty prize. }  
 Those who in skilful archery contend, 1006  
 He next invites the twanging bow to bend:  
 And twice ten axes casts amidst the round,  
 (Ten double-edg'd, and ten that singly wound).  
 The mast which late a first-rate galley bore, 1010  
 The hero fixes in the sandy shore:  
 To the tall top a milk-white dove they tie,  
 The trembling mark at which their arrows fly.  
 Whose weapon strikes yon flutt'ring bird, shall bear  
 These two-edg'd axes, terrible in war; 1015  
 The single, he whose shaft divides the cord.  
 He said: experienc'd Merion took the word,  
 And skilful Teucer: in the helm they threw  
 Their lots inscrib'd, and forth the latter flew.  
 Swift from the string the founding arrow flies; 1020  
 But flies unblest'd! no grateful sacrifice,  
 No firstling lambs, unheeded! didst thou vow  
 To Phoebus, patron of the shaft and bow.  
 For this thy well-aim'd arrow turn'd aside,  
 Err'd from the dove, yet cut the cord that ty'd: 1025  
 Adown the main-mast fell the parted string,  
 And the free bird to heav'n displays her wing:  
 Seas, shores, and skies, with loud applause resound,  
 And Merion eager meditates the wound:  
 He takes the bow, directs the shaft above, 1030  
 And following with his eye the soaring dove,  
 Implores the God to speed it thro' the skies,  
 With vows of firstling lambs, and grateful sacrifice.  
 The dove, in airy circles as she wheels,  
 Amid the cloud the piercing arrow feels; 1035  
 Quite thro' and thro' the point its passage found,  
 And at his feet fell bloody to the ground.  
 The wounded bird, ere yet she breath'd her last,  
 With flagging wings alighted on the mast,  
 A moment hung, and spread her pinions there, 1040  
 Then sudden dropt, and left her life in air.  
 From the pleas'd croud new peals of thunder rise,  
 And to the ships brave Merion bears the prize.



To close the fun'ral games, Achilles last  
 A massy spear amid the circle plac'd, 1045  
 An ample charger of unfullied frame,  
 With flow'rs high-wrought, not blacken'd yet by flame.  
 For these he bids the heroes prove their art,  
 Whose dext'rous skill directs the flying dart.  
 Here too great Merion hopes the noble prize; 1050  
 Nor here disdain'd the king of men to rise.  
 With joy Pelides saw the honour paid,  
 Rose to the monarch, and respectful said:

Thee first in virtue, as in pow'r supreme,  
 O king of nations! all thy Greeks proclaim: 1055  
 In ev'ry martial game thy worth attest,  
 And know thee both their greatest and their best.  
 Take then the prize; but let brave Merion bear  
 This beamy jav'lin in thy brother's war.

Pleas'd from the hero's lips his praise to hear, 1060  
 The king to Merion gives the brazen spear;  
 But, set apart for sacred use, commands  
 The glitt'ring charger to Talthybius' hands.



T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K XXIV.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The redemption of the body of Hector.

*The Gods deliberate about the redemption of Hector's body. Jupiter sends Thetis to Achilles to dispose him for the restoring it, and Iris to Priam, to encourage him to go in person, and treat for it. The old king, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his queen, makes ready for the journey, to which he is encouraged by an omen from Jupiter. He sets forth in his chariot, with a waggon loaded with presents, under the charge of Idæus the herald. Mercury descends in the shape of a young man, and conducts him to the pavilion of Achilles. Their conversation on the way. Priam finds Achilles at his table, casts himself at his feet, and begs for the body of his son: Achilles, moved with compassion, grants his request, detains him one night in his tent, and the next morning sends him home with the body. The Trojans run out to meet him. The lamentations of Andromache, Hecuba, and Helen, with the solemnities of the funeral.*

*The time of twelve days is employed in this book, while the body of Hector lies in the tent of Achilles; and as many more are spent in the truce allowed for his interment. The scene is partly in Achilles's camp, and partly in Troy.*

NOW from the finish'd games the Grecian band  
Seek their black ships, and clear the crouded strand:  
All stretch'd at ease the genial banquet share,  
And pleasing slumbers quiet all their care.

Not



Not so Achilles: he, to grief resign'd, 5  
 His friend's dear image present to his mind,  
 Takes his sad couch, more unobserv'd to weep;  
 Nor tastes the gifts of all-composing sleep.  
 Restless he roll'd around his weary bed,  
 And all his soul on his Patroclus fed: 10  
 The form so pleasing, and the heart so kind,  
 That youthful vigour, and that manly mind,  
 What toils they shar'd, what martial works they wrought,  
 What seas they measur'd, and what fields they fought;  
 All pass'd before him in remembrance dear; 15  
 Thought follows thought, and tear succeeds to tear.  
 And now supine, now prone, the hero lay,  
 Now shifts his side, impatient for the day:  
 Then starting up, disconsolate he goes  
 Wide on the lonely beach to vent his woes. 20  
 There as the solitary mourner raves,  
 The ruddy morning rises o'er the waves:  
 Soon as it rose, his furious steeds he join'd;  
 The chariot flies, and Hector trails behind.  
 And thrice, Patroclus! round the monument 25  
 Was Hector dragg'd, then hurry'd to the tent.  
 There sleep, at last, o'ercomes the hero's eyes:  
 While foul in dust th' unhonour'd carcase lies,  
 But not deserted by the pitying skies: }  
 For Phœbus watch'd it with superior care, 30  
 Preserv'd from gaping wounds, and tainting air;  
 And ignominious as it swept the field,  
 Spread o'er the sacred corse his golden shield.  
 All heav'n was mov'd, and Hermes will'd to go  
 By stealth to snatch him from th' insulting foe; 35  
 But Neptune this, and Pallas this denies,  
 And th' unrelenting empress of the skies:  
 E'er since that day implacable to Troy,  
 What time young Paris, simple shepherd boy,  
 Won by destructive lust, (reward obscene), 40  
 Their charms rejected for the Cyprian queen.  
 But when the tenth celestial morning broke,  
 To heav'n assembled, thus Appollo spoke:  
 Unpitying pow'rs! how oft each holy fane  
 Has Hector ting'd with blood of victims slain? ] 45  
 And can ye still his cold remains pursue?  
 Still grudge his body to the Trojans view!



Deny to comfort, mother, son, and fire,  
 The last sad honours of a fun'ral fire?  
 Is then the dire Achilles all your care? 50  
 That iron heart, inflexibly severe;  
 A lion, not a man, who slaughters wide  
 In strength of rage, and impotence of pride.  
 Who hastes to murder with a savage joy,  
 Invades around, and breathes but to destroy. 55  
 Shame is not of his soul; nor understood,  
 The greatest evil and the greatest good.  
 Still for one loss he rages unresign'd,  
 Repugnant to the lot of all mankind;  
 To lose a friend, a brother, or a son, 60  
 Heav'n dooms each mortal, and its will is done:  
 A while they sorrow, then dismiss their care;  
 Fate gives the wound, and man is born to bear.  
 But this, insatiate, the commission giv'n  
 By fate, exceeds; and tempts the wrath of heav'n: 65  
 Lo, how his rage dishonest drags along  
 Hector's dead earth insensible of wrong!  
 Brave tho' he be, yet by no reason aw'd,  
 He violates the laws of man and God.

If equal honours by the partial skies 70  
 Are doom'd both heroes, (Juno thus replies),  
 If Thetis son must no distinction know,  
 Then hear, ye Gods! the patron of the bow.  
 But Hector only boasts a mortal claim;  
 His birth deriving from a mortal dame: 75  
 Achilles of your own æthereal race  
 Springs from a Goddess by a man's embrace;  
 (A Goddess by ourself to Peleus giv'n,  
 A man divine, and chosen friend of heav'n.)  
 To grace those nuptials, from the bright abode 80  
 Yourself were present, where this minstrel-god  
 (Well pleas'd to share the feast) amid the quire  
 Stood proud to hymn, and tune his youthful lyre.

Then thus the Thund'rer checks th' imperial dame: }  
 Let not thy wrath the Court of heav'n inflame; 85 }  
 Their merits, not their honours, are the same. }  
 But mine, and ev'ry God's peculiar grace  
 Hector deserves, of all the Trojan race:  
 Still on our shrines his grateful off'rings lay,  
 (The only honours men to Gods can pay); 90  
 Nor



Nor ever from our smoking altar cease  
 The pure libation, and the holy feast.  
 Howe'er, by stealth to snatch the corse away,  
 We will not: Thetis guards it night and day.  
 But haste, and summon to our courts above 95  
 The azure queen; let her persuasion move  
 Her furious son from Priam to receive  
 The proffer'd ransom, and the corse to leave.

He added not: and Iris from the skies,  
 Swift as a whirlwind on the message flies, 100  
 Meteorous the face of ocean sweeps,  
 Refulgent gliding o'er the fable deeps.  
 Between where Samos wide his forest spreads,  
 And rocky Imbrus lifts its pointed heads,  
 Down plung'd the maid; (the parted waves resound), 105  
 She plung'd, and instant shot the dark profound.  
 As bearing death in the fallacious bait,  
 From the bent angle sinks the leaden weight;  
 So pass'd the Goddess thro' the closing wave,  
 Where Thetis sorrow'd in her secret cave: 110  
 There plac'd amidst her melancholy train,  
 (The blue-hair'd sisters of the sacred main),  
 Pensive she sat, revolving fates to come,  
 And wept her godlike son's approaching doom.

Then this the goddess of the painted bow: 115  
 Arise, O Thetis! from thy seats below;  
 'Tis Jove that calls. And why (the dame replies)  
 Calls Jove his Thetis to the hated skies?  
 Sad object as I am for heav'nly sight!  
 Ah may my sorrows ever shun the light! 120  
 Howe'er, be heaven's almighty fire obey'd—  
 She spake, and veil'd her head in sable shade,  
 Which, flowing long, her graceful person clad;  
 And forth she pass'd majestically sad.

Then thro' the world of waters they repair 125  
 (The way fair Iris led) to upper air.  
 The deeps dividing, o'er the coast they rise,  
 And touch with momentary flight the skies.  
 There in the lightning's blaze the fire they found,  
 And all the Gods in shining synod round. 130  
 Thetis approach'd with anguish in her face;  
 (Minerva rising, gave the mourner place);

Ev'n



Ev'n Juno fought her sorrows to console,  
 And offer'd from her hand the nectar bowl:  
 She tasted and resign'd it: Then began 135  
 The sacred fire of Gods and mortal man:

Thou com'st, fair Thetis! but with grief o'ercast;  
 Maternal sorrows, long, ah long to last;  
 Suffice, we know and we partake thy cares;  
 But yield to fate, and hear what Jove declares. 140

Nine days are pass'd, since all the court above  
 In Hector's cause have mov'd the ear of Jove;  
 'Twas voted, Hermes from his godlike foe  
 By stealth should bear him, but we will'd not so:  
 We will thy son himself the corse restore, 145  
 And to his conquest add this glory more.

Then hie thee to him, and our mandate bear;  
 Tell him he tempts the wrath of heav'n too far:  
 Nor let him more (our anger if he dread)  
 Vent his mad vengeance on the sacred dead; 150  
 But yield to ransom and the father's pray'r.

The mournful father Iis shall prepare,  
 With gifts to sue; and offer to his hands  
 Whate'er his honour asks, or heart demands.

His word the silver-footed queen attends, 155  
 And from Olympus' snowy tops descends.

Arriv'd, she heard the voice of loud lament,  
 And echoing groans that shook the lofty tent.  
 His friends prepare the victim, and dispose  
 Repast unheeded, while he vents his woes. 160

The Goddess seats her by her pensive son,  
 She press'd his hand, and tender thus begun:

How long, unhappy! shall thy sorrows flow,  
 And thy heart waste with life consuming woe?  
 Mindless of food, or love, whose pleasing reign 165  
 Soothes weary life, and softens human pain?

O snatch the moments yet within thy pow'r;  
 Not long to live, indulge the am'rous hour!

Lo! Jove himself (for Jove's command I bear)  
 Forbids to tempt the wrath of heav'n too far. 170

No longer then (his fury if thou dread)  
 Detain the relics of great Hector dead;

Nor vent on senseless earth thy vengeance vain,  
 But yield to ransom, and restore the slain.

To



To whom Achilles: Be the ransom giv'n, 175  
And we submit, since such the will of heav'n.

While thus they commun'd from th' Olympian bow'rs  
Jove orders Iris to the Trojan tow'rs.

Haste, winged Goddess! to the sacred town,  
And urge her monarch to redeem his son; 180

Alone the Ilian ramparts let him leave,  
And bear what stern Achilles may receive:

Alone, for so we will: no Trojan near;  
Except to place the dead with decent care,

Some aged herald, who with gentle hand 185  
May the slow mules and fun'ral car command.

Nor let him death, nor let him danger dread,  
Safe thro' the foe by our protection led:

Him Hermes to Achilles shall convey,  
Guard of his life, and partner of his way. 190

Fierce as he is, Achilles' self shall spare  
His age, nor touch one venerable hair:

Some thought there must be in a soul so brave,  
Some sense of duty, some desire to save.

Then down her bow the winged Iris drives, 195  
And swift at Priam's mournful court arrives;

Where the sad sons beside their father's throne  
Sat bath'd in tears, and answer'd groan with groan.

And all amidst them lay the hoary fire,  
(Sad scene of wo!) his face his wrapt attire 200

Conceal'd from sight; with frantic hands he spread  
A show'r of ashes o'er his neck and head.

From room to room his pensive daughters roam;  
Whose shrieks and clamours fill the vaulted dome;

Mindful of those, who, late their pride and joy, 205  
Lie pale and breathless round the fields of Troy!

Before the king Jove's messenger appears,  
And thus in whispers greets his trembling ears:

Fear not, Oh father! no ill news I bear!  
From Jove I come, Jove makes thee still his care: 210

For Hector's sake these walls he bids thee leave,  
And bear what stern Achilles may receive;

Alone, for so he wills: no Trojan near,  
Except to place the dead with decent care,

Some aged herald, who with gentle hand 215  
May the slow mules and fun'ral car command.

Nor



Nor shalt thou death, nor shalt thou danger dread;  
Safe thro' the foe by his protection led;  
Thee Hermes to Pelides shall convey,  
Guard of thy life, and partner of thy way. 220  
Fierce as he is, Achilles' self shall spare  
Thy age, nor touch one venerable hair;  
Some thought there must be in a soul so brave,  
Some sense of duty, some desire to save.

She spoke, and vanish'd. Priam bids prepare 225  
His gentle mules, and harness to the car;  
There, for the gifts a polish'd casket lay:  
His pious sons the king's command obey.  
Then pass'd the monarch to his bridal room,  
Where cedar-beams the lofty roofs perfume, 230  
And where the treasures of his empire lay;  
Then call'd his queen, and thus began to say:  
Unhappy consort of a king distressed!  
Partake the troubles of thy husband's breast:  
I saw descend the messenger of Jove, 235  
Who bids me try Achilles' mind to move;  
Forfake these ramparts, and with gifts obtain  
The corpse of Hector, at yon navy, slain.  
Tell me thy thought: my heart impels to go  
Thro' hostile camps, and bears me to the foe. 240

The hoary monarch thus. Her piercing cries  
Sad Hecuba renews, and then replies:  
Ah! whither wanders thy distemper'd mind?  
And where the prudence now that aw'd mankind:  
Thro' Phrygia once, and foreign regions known; 245  
Now all confus'd, distracted, overthrown?  
Singly to pass thro' hosts of foes! to face  
(Oh heart of steel!) the murd'rer of thy race!  
To view that deathful eye, and wander o'er  
Those hands yet red with Hector's noble gore! 250  
Alas, my lord, he knows not how to spare;  
And what his mercy thy slain sons declare;  
So brave, so many fall'n! to calm his rage  
Vain were thy dignity, and vain thy age.  
No—pent in this sad palace, let us give 255  
To grief the wretched days we have to live.  
Still, still for Hector let our sorrows flow,  
Born to his own and to his parents woe!

Doom'd



Doom'd from the hour his luckless life begun,  
To dogs, to vultures, and to Peleus' son ! 260

Oh ! in his dearest blood might I allay  
My rage, and these barbarities repay !  
For ah ! could Hector merit thus, whose breath  
Expir'd not meanly, in unactive death ?  
He pour'd his latest blood in manly fight, 265  
And fell a hero in his country's right.

Seek not to stay me, nor my soul affright  
With words of omen, like a bird of night,  
(Reply'd unmov'd the venerable man) :  
'Tis heav'n commands me, and you urge in vain. 270

Had any mortal voice the injunction laid,  
Nor augur, priest, or seer had been obey'd.  
A present Goddess brought the high command ;  
I saw, I heard her, and the word shall stand.  
I go, ye Gods ! obedient to your call : 275

If in yon camp your pow'rs have doom'd my fall,  
Content——By the same hand let me expire !  
Add to the slaughter'd son the wretched fire !  
One cold embrace at least may be allow'd,  
And my last tears flow mingled with his blood ! 280

From forth his open'd stores, this said, he drew  
Twelve costly carpets of refulgent hue,  
As many vests as many mantles told,  
And twelve fair veils and garments stiff with gold ;  
Two tripods next, and twice two chargers shine, 285  
With ten pure talents from the richest mine:  
And last a large well labour'd bowl had place,  
(The pledge of treaties once with friendly Thrace) ;  
Seem'd all to mean the stores he could employ,  
For one last look to buy him back to Troy ! 290

Lo ! the sad father, frantic with his pain,  
Around him furious drives his menial train :  
In vain each slave with duteous care attends ;  
Each office hurts him, and each face offends.  
What make ye here ? officious crouds ! (he cries) ; 295  
Hence ! nor obtrude your anguish on my eyes.  
Have ye no griefs at home, to fix ye there ?  
Am I the only object of despair ?  
Am I become my people's common show,  
Set up by Jove your spectacle of woe ? 300

No,



No, you must feel him too ; yourselves must fall ;  
 The same stern God to ruin gives you all :  
 Nor is great Hector lost by me alone,  
 Your sole defence, your guardian pow'r is gone !  
 I see your blood the fields of Phrygia drown, 305  
 I see the ruins of your smoking town !

Oh send me, Gods ! ere that sad day shall come,  
 A willing ghost to Pluto's dreary dome !

He said, and feebly drives his friends away :  
 The sorrowing friends his frantic rage obey. 310

Next on his sons his erring fury falls,  
 Polites, Paris, Agathon he calls,  
 His threats Deiphobus and Dius hear,  
 Hippothöus, Pammon, Helenus the seer,  
 And gen'rous Antiphon ; for yet these nine 315  
 Surviv'd, sad relics of his num'rous line.

Inglorious sons of an unhappy fire !  
 Why did not all in Hector's cause expire ?  
 Wretch that I am ! my bravest offspring slain,  
 You, the disgrace of Priam's house, remain ! 320  
 Mestor the brave, renown'd in ranks of war,  
 With Troilus, dreadful on his rushing car,  
 And last great Hector, more than man divine,  
 For sure he seem'd not of terrestrial line !

All those relentless Mars untimely flew, 325  
 And left me these, a soft and servile crew,  
 Whose days the feast and wanton dance employ,  
 Gluttons and flatt'ers, the contempt of Troy !  
 Why teach ye not my rapid wheels to run,  
 And speed my journey to redeem my son ? 330

The sons their father's wretched age revere,  
 Forgive his anger, and produce the car.  
 High on the seat the cabinet they bind :  
 The new-made car with solid beauty shin'd ;  
 Box was the yoke, emboss'd with costly pains, 335  
 And hung with ringlets to receive the reins :  
 Nine cubits long the traces swept the ground ;  
 These to the chariot's polish'd pole they bound,  
 Then fix'd a ring the running reins to guide,  
 And close beneath the gather'd ends were ty'd. 340  
 Next with the gifts (the price of Hector slain)  
 The sad attendants load the groaning wain :

Last



Last to the yoke the well-match'd mules they bring,  
(The gift of Mysia to the Trojan king).

But the fair horses, long his darling care, 345

Himself receiv'd, and harness'd to his car :

Griev'd as he was, he not this task deny'd ;

The hoary herald help'd him, at his side.

While careful these the gentle courfers join'd,

Sad Hecuba approach'd with anxious mind ; 350

A golden bowl that foam'd with fragrant wine,

(Libation destin'd to the pow'r divine),

Held in her right, before the steeds she stands,

And thus consigns it to the monarch's hands:

Take this, and pour to Jove ; that safe from harms

His grace restore thee to our roof and arms, 356

Since victor of thy fears, and slighting mine,

Heav'n, or thy soul, inspire this bold design ;

Pray to that God, who high on Ida's brow

Surveys thy desolated arms below, 360

His winged messenger to send from high,

And lead thy way with heav'nly augury :

Let the strong sov'reign of the plummy race

Tow'r on the right of yon æthereal space.

That sign beheld, and strengthen'd from above, 365

Boldly pursue the journey mark'd by Jove ;

But if the God his augury denies,

Suppress thy impulse, nor reject advice.

'Tis just (said Priam) to the fire above

To raise our hands ; for who so good as Jove ? 370

He spoke, and bade th' attendant handmaid bring

The purest water of the living spring :

(Her ready hands the ew'r and bason held) ;

Then took the golden cup his queen had fill'd ;

On the mid pavement pours the rosy wine, 375

Uplifts his eyes, and calls the pow'r divine.

Oh first, and greatest ! heav'n's imperial Lord !

On lofty Ida's holy hill ador'd !

To stern Achilles now direct my ways,

And teach him mercy when a father prays.

If such thy will, dispatch from yonder sky

Thy sacred bird, celestial augury !

Let the strong sov'reign of the plummy race

Tow'r on the right of yon æthereal space :



So shall thy suppliant, strengthen'd from above, 385  
Fearless pursue the journey mark'd by Jove.

Jove heard his pray'r, and from the throne on high  
Dispatch'd his bird, celestial augury !

The swift-wing'd chacer of the feather'd game,  
And known to Gods by Percnos' lofty name. 390

Wide, as appears some palace-gate display'd,  
So broad his pinions stretch'd their ample shade  
As stooping dexter with resounding wings  
Th' imperial bird descends in airy rings.

A dawn of joy in ev'ry face appears ; 395

The mourning matron dries her tim'rous tears.

Swift on his car th' impatient monarch sprung ;

The brazen portal in his passage rung.

The mules preceding draw the loaded wain,

Charg'd with the gifts : Idæus holds the rein : 400

The king himself his gentle steeds controls,

And thro' surrounding friends the chariot rolls.

On his slow wheels the following people wait,

Mourn at each step, and give him up to fate ;

With hands uplifted, eye him as he past, 405

And gaze upon him, as they gaz'd their last.

Now forward fares the father on his way,

Thro' the lone fields, and back to Ilion they.

Great Jove beheld him as he cross'd the plain,

And felt the woes of miserable man. 410

Then thus to Hermes : Thou whose constant cares

Still succour mortals, and attend their pray'rs ;

Behold an object to thy charge consign'd :

If ever pity touch'd thee for mankind ;

Go, guard the fire ; th' observing foe prevent, 415

And safe conduct him to Achilles' tent.

The God obeys, his golden pinions binds,

And mounts incumbent on the wings of winds,

That high, thro' fields of air, his flight sustain

O'er the wide earth, and o'er the boundless main : 420

Then grasps the wand that causes sleep to fly,

Or in soft slumbers seals the wakeful eye ;

Thus arm'd, swift Hermes steers his airy way,

And stoops on Hellespont's resounding sea.

A beauteous youth, majestic and divine, 425

He seem'd ; fair offspring of some princely line !

Now



Now twilight veil'd the glazing face of day,  
 And clad the dusky fields in sober gray;  
 What time the herald and the hoary king  
 (Their chariots stopping at the silver spring,  
 That circling Ilus' antient marble flows)

430

Allow'd their mules and steeds a short repose.  
 Through the dim shade the herald first espies  
 A man's approach, and thus to Priam cries:  
 I mark some foe's advance: O king! beware;  
 This hard adventure claims thy utmost care:

435

For much I fear, destruction hovers nigh:  
 Our state asks counsel; is it best to fly?  
 Or, old and helpless, at his feet to fall,  
 (Two wretched suppliants), and for mercy call?

440

The afflicted monarch shiver'd with despair;  
 Pale grew his face, and upright stood his hair;  
 Sunk was his heart; his colour went and came;  
 A sudden trembling shook his aged frame:  
 When Hermes greeting, touch'd his royal hand,  
 And gentle, thus accosts with kind demand:

445

Say whither, father! when each mortal sight  
 Is seal'd in sleep, thou wand'rest through the night?  
 Why roam thy mules and steeds the plains along,  
 Thro' Grecian foes, so num'rous and so strong?

450

What could'st thou hope, should these thy treasures view?  
 These, who with endless hate thy race pursue?  
 For what defence, alas! couldst thou provide;  
 Thyself not young, a weak old man thy guide?  
 Yet suffer not thy soul to sink with dread;

455

From me no harm shall touch thy rev'rend head;  
 From Greece I'll guard thee too; for in those lines  
 The living image of my father shines.

Thy words, that speak benevolence of mind,  
 Are true, my son! (the godlike sire rejoin'd);  
 Great are my hazards: but the Gods survey  
 My steps, and send thee, guardian of my way.  
 Hail, and be blest'd! for scarce of mortal kind  
 Appear thy form, thy feature, and thy mind.

460

Nor true are all thy words, nor erring wide;  
 (The sacred messenger of heav'n reply'd):  
 But say, convey'st thou thro' the lonely plains  
 What yet most precious of thy store remains,

465



To lodge in safety with some friendly hand ;  
 Prepar'd perchance, to leave thy native land? 470  
 Or fly'st thou now?—What hopes can Troy retain ;  
 Thy matchless son, her guard and glory, slain?

The king alarm'd: Say what, and whence thou art,  
 Who search the sorrows of a parent's heart,  
 And know so well how godlike Hector dy'd? 475  
 Thus Priam spoke, and Hermes thus reply'd:

You tempt me, father, and with pity touch:  
 On this sad subject you enquire too much.  
 Oft have those eyes that godlike Hector view'd  
 In glorious fight, with Grecian blood embru'd: 480  
 I saw him, when, like Jove, his flames he tost  
 On thousand ships, and wither'd half a host:  
 I saw, but help'd not: stern Achilles' ire  
 Forbade assistance, and enjoy'd the fire.  
 For him I serve, of Myrmidonian race; 485  
 One ship convey'd us from our native place;  
 Polyctor is my sire, an honour'd name,  
 Old like thyself, and not unknown to fame;  
 Of sev'n his sons, by whom the lot was cast  
 To serve our prince, it fell on me, the last. 490  
 To watch this quarter, my adventure falls:  
 For with the morn the Greeks attack your walls;  
 Sleepless they sit, impatient to engage,  
 And scarce their rulers check their martial rage.

If then thou art of stern Pelides' train, 495  
 (The mournful monarch thus rejoin'd again),  
 Ah tell me truly, where, oh! where are laid  
 My son's dear relics? what befalls him dead?  
 Have dogs dismember'd (on the naked plains),  
 Or, yet unmangled, rest his cold remains? 500

O favour'd of the skies! thus answer'd then  
 (The pow'r that meditates 'twixt Gods and men);  
 Nor dogs nor vultures have thy Hector rent,  
 But whole he lies, neglected in the tent:  
 This the twelfth evening since he rested there, 505  
 Untouch'd by worms, untainted by the air.  
 Still as Aurora's ruddy beam is spread,  
 Round his friend's tomb Achilles drags the dead:  
 Yet undisfigur'd, or in limb or face,  
 All fresh he lies, with ev'ry living grace, 510

Majestical



Majestical in death! No stains are found  
 O'er all the corse, and clos'd is ev'ry wound;  
 (Tho' many a wound they gave). Some heav'nly care,  
 Some hand divine, preserves him ever fair:  
 Or all the host of heav'n, to whom he led  
 A life so grateful, still regard him dead. 515

Thus spoke to Priam the celestial guide,  
 And joyful thus the royal sire reply'd:

Bless'd is the man who pays the Gods above  
 The constant tribute of respect and love! 520  
 Those who inhabit the Olympian bow'r,  
 My son forgot not, in exalted pow'r:  
 And heav'n, that ev'ry virtue bears in mind,  
 Ev'n to the ashes of the just is kind.

But thou, oh gen'rous youth! this goblet take, 525  
 A pledge of gratitude for Hector's sake;  
 And while the fav'ring Gods our steps survey,  
 Safe to Pelides' tent conduct my way.

To whom the latent God: O King, forbear  
 To tempt my youth, for apt is youth to err: 530  
 But can I, absent from my prince's fight,  
 Take gifts in secret, that must shun the light!  
 What from our master's int'rest thus we draw,  
 Is but a licens'd theft that 'scapes the law.

Respecting him, my soul abjures th' offence; 535  
 And as the crime, I dread the consequence.  
 Thee, far as Argos, pleas'd I could convey,  
 Guard of thy life, and partner of thy way;  
 On thee attend, thy safety to maintain,  
 O'er pathless forests, or the roaring main. 540

He said, then took the chariot at a bound,  
 And snatch'd the reins, and whirl'd the lash around:  
 Before th' inspiring God that urg'd them on,  
 The coursers fly, with spirit not their own.

And now they reach'd the naval walls, and found 545  
 The guards repasting, while the bowls go round;  
 On these the virtue of his wand he tries,

And pours deep slumber on their watchful eyes:

Then heav'd the massy gates, remov'd the bars,

And o'er the trenches led the rolling cars. 550

Unseen, thro' all the hostile camp they went,

And now approach'd Pelides' lofty tent.



On firs the roof was rais'd, and cover'd o'er  
 With reeds collected from the marshy shore;  
 And, fenc'd with palisades, a hall of state, 555  
 (The work of soldiers), where the hero sat.

Large was the door, whose well-compacted strength  
 A solid pine-tree barr'd of wondrous length;  
 Scarce three strong Greeks could lift its mighty weight,  
 But great Achilles singly clos'd the gate. 560

This Hermes (such the pow'r of Gods) set wide;  
 Then swift alighted the celestial guide,  
 And thus, reveal'd—Hear, prince! and understand  
 Thou ow'st thy guidance to no mortal hand:

Hermes I am, descended from above, 565  
 The king of arts, the messenger of Jove.

Farewell. To shun Achilles fight I fly;  
 Uncommon are such favours of the sky, 570  
 Nor stand confess'd to frail mortality.

Now fearless enter, and prefer thy pray'rs;  
 Adjure him by his father's silver hairs,  
 His son, his mother! urge him to bestow  
 Whatever pity that stern heart can know.

Thus having said, he vanish'd from his eyes,  
 And in a moment shot into the skies: 575  
 The king, confirm'd from heav'n, alighted there,  
 And left his aged herald on the car.

With solemn pace thro' various rooms he went,  
 And found Achilles in his inner tent:  
 There sat the hero; Alcimus the brave, 580  
 And great Automedon, attendance gave:  
 These serv'd his person at the royal feast:  
 Around, at awful distance, stood the rest.

Unseen by these, the king his entry made;  
 And prostrate now before Achilles laid, 585  
 Sudden, (a venerable sight!) appears;  
 Embrac'd his knees, and bath'd his hands in tears;  
 Those direful hands his kisses press'd, imbru'd  
 Ev'n with the best, the dearest of his blood!

As when a wretch, (who conscious of his crime, 590  
 Pursu'd for murder, flies his native clime),  
 Just gains some frontier, breathless! pale! amaz'd!  
 All gaze, all wonder: thus Achilles gaz'd:  
 Thus stood the attendants, stupid with surprise;  
 All mute, yet seem'd to question with their eyes: 595  
 Each



Each look'd on other, none the silence broke,  
Till thus at last the kingly suppliant spoke:

Ah think, thou favour'd of the pow'rs divine!  
Think of thy father's age, and pity mine!

In me, that father's rev'rend image trace, 600  
Those silver hairs, that venerable face;  
His trembling limbs, his helpless person, see!  
In all my equal, but in misery!

Yet now, perhaps, some turn of human fate  
Expels him, helpless, from his peaceful state; 605  
Think, from some pow'rful foe thou seest him fly,  
And beg protection with a feeble cry.

Yet still one comfort in his soul may rise;  
He hears his son still lives to glad his eyes;  
And hearing, still may hope a better day 610  
May send him thee, to chase that foe away.

No comfort to my griefs, no hopes remain;  
The best, the bravest of my sons are slain!  
Yet what a race, ere Greece to Ilion came!  
The pledge of many a lov'd and loving dame: 615

Nineteen one mother bore!—Dead, all are dead!  
How oft, alas! has wretched Priam bled?

Still one was left their loss to recompence;  
His father's hope, his country's last defence.  
Him too thy rage has slain! beneath thy steel, 620  
Unhappy! in his country's cause he fell!

For him through hostile camps I bent my way,  
For him thus prostrate at thy feet I lay;  
Large gifts proportion'd to thy wrath I bear;  
Oh hear the wretched, and the Gods revere! 625

Think of thy father, and this face behold!  
See him in me, as helpless and as old!  
Tho' not so wretched: there he yields to me,  
The first of men in sov'reign misery!

Thus forc'd to kneel, thus grov'ling to embrace  
The scourge and ruin of my realm and race: 631  
Suppliant my childrens murd'rer to implore,  
And kiss those hands yet reeking with their gore!

These words soft pity in the chief inspire,  
Touch'd with the dear remembrance of his fire. 635  
Then with his hand (as prostrate still he lay)  
The old man's cheek he gently turn'd away.

Now



Now each by turns indulg'd the gush of woe;  
 And now the mingled tides together flow:  
 This low on earth, that gently bending o'er, 640.  
 A father one, and one a son deplore:  
 But great Achilles diff'rent passions rend,  
 And now his sire he mourns, and now his friend.  
 Th' infectious softness thro' the heroes ran;  
 One universal solemn show'r began; 645 }  
 They bore as heroes, but they felt as man.

Satiate at length with unavailing woes,  
 From the high throne divine Achilles rose;  
 The rev'rend monarch by the hand he rais'd;  
 On his white beard and form majestic gaz'd, 650  
 Not unrelenting: then serene began  
 With words to soothe the miserable man:

Alas! what weight of anguish hast thou known?  
 Unhappy prince! thus guardless and alone  
 To pass thro' foes, and thus undaunted face 655  
 The man whose fury has destroy'd thy race?  
 Heav'n sure has arm'd thee with a heart of steel,  
 A strength proportion'd to the woes you feel.  
 Rise then: let reason mitigate our care:  
 To mourn, avails not: man is born to bear. 660  
 Such is, alas! the Gods severe decree:  
 They, only they are blest'd, and only free.  
 Two urns by Jove's high throne have ever stood,  
 The source of evil one, and one of good;  
 From thence the cup of mortal man he fills, 665  
 Blessings to these, to those distributes ill;  
 To most he mingles both: the wretch decreed  
 To taste the bad, unmix'd, is curs'd indeed;  
 Pursu'd by wrongs, by meagre famine driv'n,  
 He wanders, outcast both of earth and heav'n. 670

The happiest taste not happiness sincere,  
 But find the cordial draught is dash'd with care.  
 Who more than Peleus shone in wealth and pow'r?  
 What stars concurring blest'd his natal hour?  
 A realm, a Goddess, to his wishes giv'n; 675  
 Grac'd by the Gods with all the gifts of heav'n!  
 One evil, yet, o'ertakes his latest day:  
 No race succeeding to imperial sway:  
 An only son; and he (alas!) ordain'd  
 To fall untimely in a foreign land. 680

See



See him, in Troy, the pious care decline,  
 Of his weak age, to live the curse of thine !  
 Thou too, old man, hast happier days beheld ;  
 In riches once, in children once excell'd ;  
 Extended Phrygia own'd thy ample reign,  
 And all fair Lesbos' blissful seats contain,  
 And all wide Hellespont's unmeasur'd main.  
 But since the God his hand has pleas'd to turn,  
 And fill thy measure from his bitter urn,  
 What sees the sun, but hapless heroes falls ?  
 War, and the blood of men, surround thy walls !  
 What must be, must be. Bear thy lot, nor shed  
 These unavailing sorrows o'er the dead ;  
 Thou canst not call him from the Stygian shore ;  
 But thou, alas ! mayst live to suffer more !

685

690

695

To whom the King : Oh favour'd of the skies !  
 Here let me grow to earth ! since Hector lies  
 On the bare beach, depriv'd of obsequies.  
 Oh give me Hector ! to my eyes restore  
 His corse, and take the gifts : I ask no more.  
 Thou, as thou mayst, these boundless stores enjoy ;  
 Safe mayst thou sail and turn thy wrath from Troy ;  
 So shall thy pity and forbearance give  
 A weak old man to see the light and live !

700

Move me no more, (Achilles thus replies,  
 While kindling anger sparkled in his eyes) ;  
 Nor seek by tears my steady soul to bend ;  
 To yield thy Hector I myself intend :  
 For know, from Jove my Goddess-mother came,  
 (Old Ocean's daughter, silver-footed dame) ;  
 Nor com'st thou but by heav'n ; nor com'st alone,  
 Some God impels with courage not thy own :  
 No human hand the weighty gates unbarr'd,  
 Nor could the boldest of our youth have dar'd  
 To pass our outworks, or elude the guard.  
 Cease, lest neglectful of high Jove's command,  
 I show thee, king ! thou tread'st on hostile land ;  
 Release my knees, thy suppliant arts give o'er,  
 And shake the purpose of my soul no more.

705

710

715

The fire obey'd him, trembling and o'eraw'd.  
 Achilles, like a lion, rush'd abroad ;  
 Automedon and Alcimus attend,  
 (Whom most he honour'd, since he lost his friend) ;

720

These



These to unyoke the mules and horses went,  
And led the hoary herald to the tent; 725

Next heap'd on high the num'rous presents bear  
(Great Hector's ransom) from the polish'd car.

Two splendid mantles, and a carpet spread,

They leave, to cover, and inwrap the dead.

Then call the handmaids, with assistant toil 730

To wash the body, and anoint with oil;

Apart from Priam; lest th' unhappy fire

Provok'd to passion, once more rouse to ire

The stern Pelides; and nor sacred age,

Nor Jove's command, should check the rising rage. 735

This done, the garments o'er the corse they spread;

Achilles lifts it to the fun'ral bed:

Then, while the body on the car they laid,

He groans, and calls on lov'd Patroclus' shade:

If in that gloom, which never light must know, 740

The deeds of mortals touch the ghosts below;

O friend! forgive me, that I thus fulfil

(Restoring Hector) heav'n's unquestion'd will.

The gifts the father gave, be ever thine,

To grace thy manes, and adorn thy shrine. 745

He said, and ent'ring, took his seat of state,

Where full before him rev'rend Priam sat:

To whom, compos'd, the godlike chief begun:

Lo! to thy pray'r restor'd, thy breathless son;

Extended on the fun'ral couch, he lies; 750

And soon as morning paints the eastern skies,

The sight is granted to thy longing eyes.

But now the peaceful hours of sacred night

Demand refection, and to rest invite:

Nor thou, O father! thus consum'd with woe, 755

The common cares that nourish life forego.

Not thus did Niobe, of form divine,

A parent once, whose sorrows equall'd thine:

Six youthful sons, as many blooming maids,

In one sad day beheld the Stygian shades; 760

Those by Apollo's silver bow were slain,

These Cynthia's arrows stretch'd upon the plain:

So was her pride chastis'd by wrath divine,

Who match'd her own with bright Latona's line;

But two the Goddess, twelve the queen enjoy'd; 765

Those boasted twelve th' avenging two destroy'd.

Steep'd



Steep'd in their blood, and in the dust outspread,  
 Nine days, neglected, lay expos'd the dead;  
 None by to weep them, to inhume them none;  
 (For Jove had turn'd the nation all to stone):

770

The Gods, themselves at length relenting, gave  
 Th' unhappy race the honours of a grave.

Herself a rock, (for such was heav'n's high will)  
 Through deserts wild now pours a weeping rill;  
 Where round the bed whence Achelous springs,

775

The wat'ry fairies dance in mazy rings,

There high on Sipylus's shaggy brow,

She stands her own sad monument of woe;

The rock for ever lasts, the tears for ever flow.

Such griefs, O king! have other parents known; 780  
 Remember theirs, and mitigate thy own.

The care of heav'n thy Hector has appear'd,

Nor shall he lie unwept and uninterr'd;

Soon may thy aged cheeks in tears be drown'd,

And all the eyes of Ilion stream around.

785

He said; and, rising, chose the victim ewe

With silver fleece, which his attendants slew.

The limbs they sever from the reeking hide,

With skill prepare them, and in parts divide:

Each on the coals the sep'rate morsels lays,

790

And hasty snatches from the rising blaze.

With bread the glitt'ring canisters they load,

Which round the board Automedon bestow'd:

The chief himself to each his portion plac'd,

And each indulging shar'd in sweet repast.

795

When now the rage of hunger was repress'd,

The wond'ring hero eyes his royal guest:

No less the royal guest the hero eyes,

His godlike aspect and majestic size:

Here youthful grace and noble fire engage,

800

And there the mild benevolence of age.

Thus gazing long, the silence neither broke,

(A solemn scene!), at length the father spoke:

Permit me now, belov'd of Jove! to steep

My careful temples in the dew of sleep:

805

For since the day that number'd with the dead

My hapless son, the dust has been my bed;

Soft sleep a stranger to my weeping eyes,

My only food my sorrows and my sighs!

Till



Till now, encourag'd by the grace you give, 810  
I share the banquet, and consent to live.

With that, Achilles bade prepare the bed,  
With purple soft, and shaggy carpets spread;  
Forth, by the flaming lights, they bend their way,  
And place the couches, and the cov'ring lay. 815

Then he: Now, father, sleep; but sleep not here:  
Consult thy safety, and forgive my fear,

Lest any Argive (at this hour awake,  
To ask our counsel, or our orders take)  
Approaching sudden to our open'd tent, 820  
Perchance behold thee, and our grace prevent.

Should such report thy honour'd person here,  
The king of men the ransom might defer:  
But say with speed, if ought of thy desire  
Remains unask'd; what time the rites require 825

T' inter thy Hector? for so long we stay  
Our slaught'ring arm, and bid the hosts obey.

If then thy will permit (the monarch said)  
To finish all due honours to the dead,  
This of thy grace accord: to thee are known 830  
The fears of Ilion, clos'd within her town;  
And at what distance from our walls aspire  
The hills of Ide, and forests for the fire.

Nine days to vent our sorrows I request,  
The tenth shall see the fun'ral and the feast: 835  
The next to raise his monument be giv'n;

The twelfth we war, if war be doom'd by heav'n!

This thy request (reply'd the chief) enjoy:  
Till then our arms suspend the fall of Troy.

Then gave his hand at parting, to prevent 840  
The old man's fears, and turn'd within the tent;  
Where fair Briseïs, bright in blooming charms,  
Expects her hero with desiring arms.

But in the porch the king and herald rest,  
Sad dreams of care yet wand'ring in their breast. 845

Now Gods and men the gifts of sleep partake;  
Industrious Hermes only was awake,

The king's return revolving in his mind,  
To pass the ramparts, and the watch to blind.

The pow'r descending hover'd o'er his head: 850  
And sleep'st thou, father! (thus the vision said),

Now



Now dost thou sleep, when Hector is restor'd?  
 Nor fear the Grecian foes, or Grecian Lord?  
 Thy presence here should from Atrides see,  
 Thy still surviving sons may sue for thee, 855  
 May offer all thy treasures yet contain,  
 To spare thy age; and offer all in vain.

Wak'd with the word, the trembling fire arose,  
 And rais'd his friend: the God before him goes,  
 He joins the mules, directs them with his hand, 860  
 And moves in silence through the hostile land.  
 When now to Xanthus' yellow stream they drove,  
 (Xanthus, immortal progeny of Jove),  
 The winged deity forsook their view,  
 And in a moment to Olympus flew. 865

Now shed Aurora round her saffron ray,  
 Sprung thro' the gates of light, and gave the day:  
 Charg'd with their mournful load, to Ilion go  
 The sage and king, majestically flow.  
 Cassandra first beholds, from Ilion's spire, 870  
 The sad procession of her hoary fire;  
 Then, as the pensive pomp advanc'd more near,  
 (Her breathless brother stretch'd upon the bier!)  
 A show'r of tears o'erflows her beauteous eyes,  
 Alarming thus all Ilion with her cries. 875

Turn here your steps, and here your eyes employ,  
 Ye wretched daughters, and ye sons of Troy!  
 If e'er you rush'd in crouds, with vast delight,  
 To hail your hero glorious from the fight;  
 Now meet him dead, and let your sorrows flow! 880  
 Your common triumph, and your common woe.

In thronging crouds they issue to the plains,  
 Nor man nor woman in the walls remains;  
 In ev'ry face the self-same grief is shown,  
 And Troy sends forth one universal groan. 885  
 At Scæa's gates they meet the mourning wain,  
 Hang on the wheels, and grovel round the slain.  
 The wife and mother, frantic with despair,  
 Kifs his pale cheek, and rend their scatter'd hair:  
 Thus wildly wailing, at the gates they lay; 890  
 And there had sigh'd and sorrow'd out the day;  
 But godlike Priam from the chariot rose;  
 Forbear (he cry'd) this violence of woes



First to the palace let the car proceed,  
Then pour your boundless sorrows o'er the dead. 895

The waves of people at his word divide,  
Slow rolls the chariot through the following tide;  
Ev'n to the palace the sad pomp they wait:  
They weep, and place him on the bed of state.  
A melancholy choir attend around, 900  
With plaintive sighs, and music's solemn sound:  
Alternately they sing, alternate flow  
Th' obedient tears, melodious in their woe.  
While deeper sorrows groan from each full heart,  
And nature speaks at ev'ry pause of art. 905

First to the corse the weeping consort flew;  
Around his neck her milk-white arms she threw,  
And, oh my Hector! oh my lord! she cries,  
Snatch'd in thy bloom from these desiring eyes!  
Thou to the dismal realms for ever gone? 910  
And I abandon'd, desolate, alone!

An only son, once comfort of our pains,  
Sad product now of hapless love remains!  
Never to manly age that son shall rise,  
Or with increasing graces glad my eyes: 915  
For Ilion now (her great defender slain)  
Shall sink a smoking ruin on the plain.

Who now protects her wives with guardian care?  
Who saves her infants from the rage of war?  
Now hostile fleets must waft those infants o'er, 920  
(Those wives must wait them), to a foreign shore!  
Thou too, my son! to barb'rous climes shalt go,  
The sad companion of thy mother's woe;

Driv'n hence a slave before the victor's sword;  
Condemn'd to toil for some inhuman lord: 925  
Or else some Greek whose father press'd the plain,  
Or son, or brother, by great Hector slain,  
In Hector's blood his vengeance shall enjoy,  
And hurl thee headlong from the tow'rs of Troy.

For thy stern father never spar'd a foe: 930  
Thence all these tears, and all this scene of woe?  
Thence many evils his sad parents bore,  
His parents many, but his comfort more.

Why gav'st thou not to me thy dying hand?  
And why receiv'd not I thy last command! 935  
Some



Some word thou wouldst have spoke, which, sadly dear,  
My soul might keep, or utter with a tear;  
Which never never could be lost in air,  
Fix'd in my heart, and oft repeated there!

Thus to her weeping maids she makes her moan; 940  
Her weeping handmaids echo groan for groan.

The mournful mother next sustains her part:  
Oh thou the best, the dearest to my heart!  
Of all my race thou most by heav'n approv'd,  
And by th' immortals ev'n in death belov'd! 945  
While all my other sons in barb'rous bands  
Achilles bound and sold to foreign lands,  
This felt no chains, but went a glorious ghost,  
Free and a hero, to the Stygian coast.  
Sentenc'd, 'tis true, by his inhuman doom, 950  
Thy noble corse was dragg'd around the tomb,  
(The tomb of him thy warlike arm had slain),  
Ungen'rous insult, impotent and vain!  
Yet glow'st thou fresh with ev'ry living grace;  
No mark of pain or violence of face; 955  
Rosy and fair! as Phœbus' silver bow  
Dismiss'd thee gently to the shades below.

Thus spoke the dame, and melted into tears.  
Sad Helen next in pomp of grief appears:  
Fast from the shining sluicés of her eyes 960  
Fall the round crystal drops, while thus she cries:

Ah dearest friend! in whom the Gods had join'd  
The mildest manners with the bravest mind;  
Now twice ten years (unhappy years) are o'er,  
Since Paris brought me to the Trojan shore; 965  
(Oh had I perish'd, ere that form divine  
Seduc'd this soft, this easy heart of mine!)  
Yet was it ne'er my fate from thee to find  
A deed ungentle, or a word unkind:  
When others curs'd the auth'refs of their woe, 970  
Thy pity check'd my sorrows in their flow:  
If some proud brother ey'd me with disdain,  
Or scornful sister with her sweeping train;  
Thy gentle accents soften'd all my pain.  
For thee I mourn; and mourn myself in thee, 975  
The wretched source of all this misery!



The fate I caus'd for ever I bemoan ;  
 Sad Helen has no friend, now thou art gone !  
 Thro' Troy's wide streets abandon'd shall I roam !  
 In Troy deserted, as abhor'd at home ! 980

So spoke the fair, with sorrow-streaming eye :  
 Distressful beauty melts each stander-by ;  
 On all around th' infectious sorrow grows ;  
 But Priam check'd the torrent as it rose.  
 Perform, ye Trojans ! what the rites require, 985  
 And fell the forests for a fun'ral pyre :  
 Twelve days, nor foes nor secret ambush dread ;  
 Achilles grants these honours to the dead.

He spoke ; and at his word the Trojan train  
 Their mules and oxen harness to the wain, 990  
 Pour through the gates, and fell'd from Ida's crown,  
 Roll back the gather'd forests to the town.  
 These toils continue nine succeeding days,  
 And high in air a sylvan structure raise.  
 But when the tenth fair morn began to shine, 995  
 Forth to the pile was borne the man divine,  
 And plac'd aloft : while all, with streaming eyes,  
 Beheld the flames and rolling smokes arise.  
 Soon as Aurora daughter of the dawn,  
 With rosy lustre streak'd the dewy lawn ; 1000  
 Again the mournful crouds surround the pyre,  
 And quench with wine the yet remaining fire ;  
 The snowy bones his friends and brothers place  
 (With tears collected) in a golden vase ;  
 The golden vase in purple palls they roll'd, 1005  
 Of softest texture, and inwrought with gold.  
 Last o'er the urn the sacred earth they spread,  
 And rais'd the tomb, memorial of the dead.  
 (Strong guards and spies, till all the rites were done,  
 Watch'd from the rising to the setting sun). 1010  
 All Troy then moves to Priam's court again,  
 A solemn, silent, melancholy train :  
 Assembled there, from pious toil they rest,  
 And sadly shar'd the last sepulchral feast.  
 Such honours Ilion to her hero paid, 1015  
 And peaceful slept the mighty Hector's shade.

The END of the ILIAD.



















Homerus,

The Iliad

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